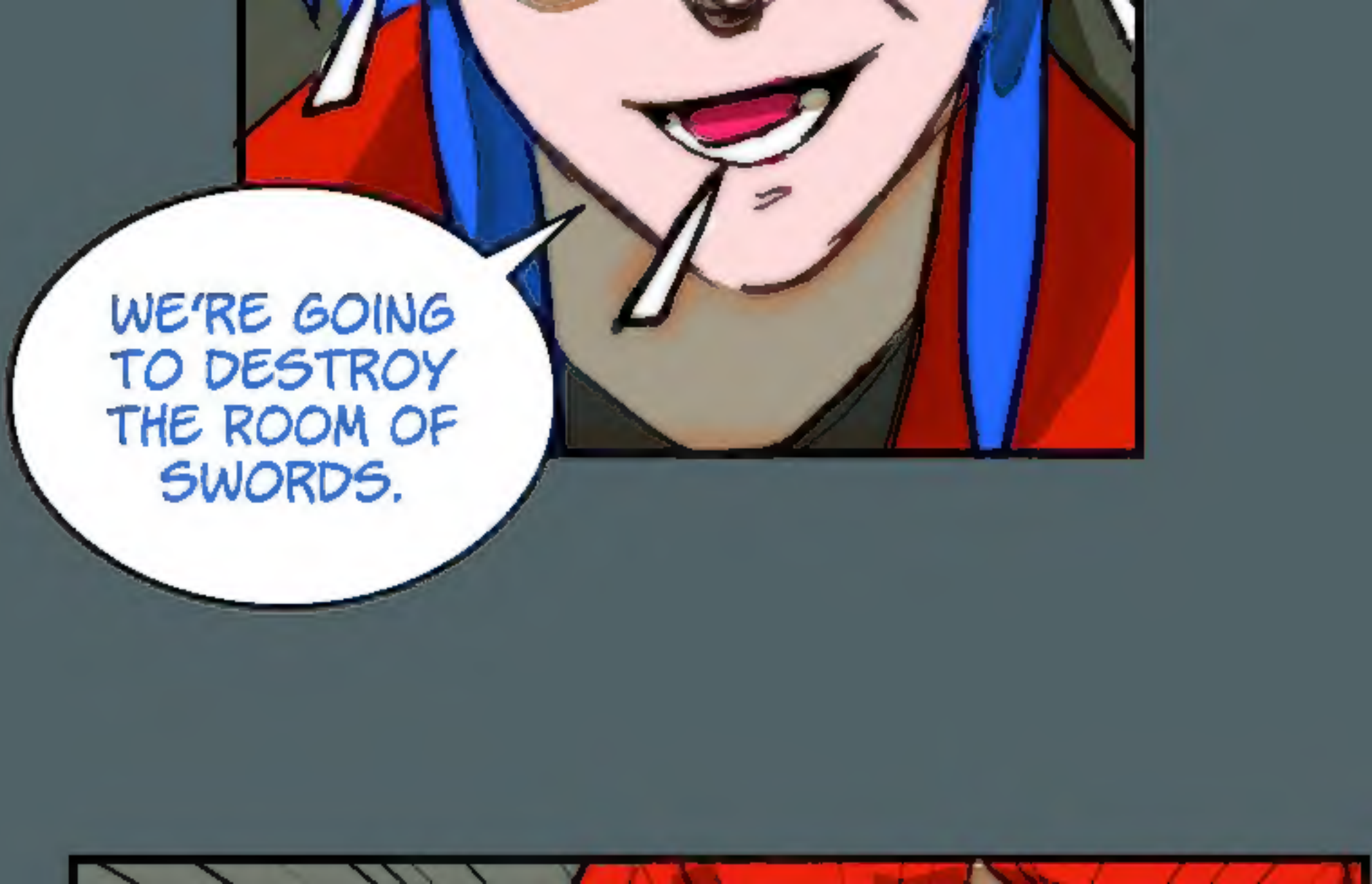

WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY THE ROOM OF SWORDS.

WHAT DID YE SAY?!

SHE SAID:
"WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY THE ROOM OF SWORDS."

THAT IS INSANE!

WHEREFORE WOULD YE DO THIS?!

HOW WILL WE GO HOME!?

WHO SAYS YOU NEED THE ROOM OF SWORDS TO GO HOME?

THE VOICE IN THE SKY DID!!

. . .
THIS IS POINTLESS.
I COULD EXPLAIN, BUT I DOUBT YOU'LL BELIEVE ME UNTIL YOU MEET ALASTAIR.

GYRUS, SPEAK SOME SENSE!

SURELY THIS SOUNDS CRAZY TO YOU TOO!

SIGH

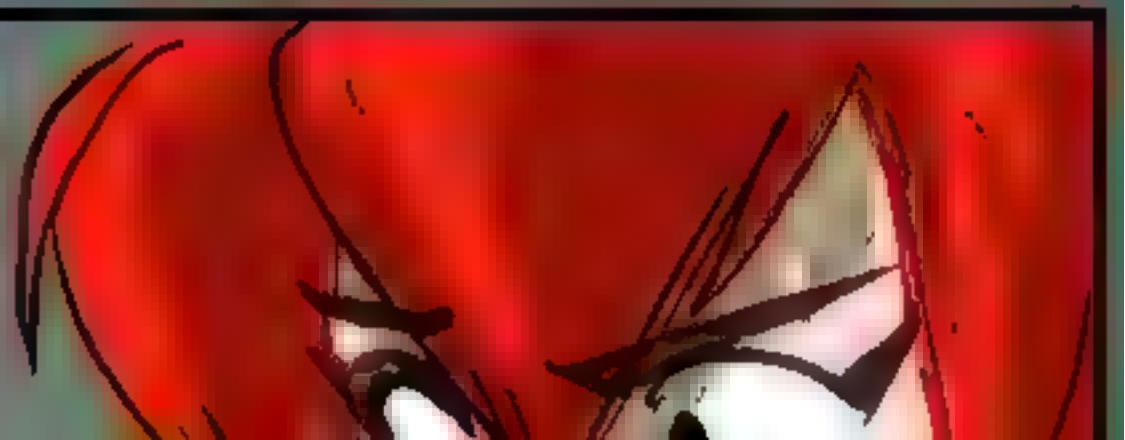
I ADMIT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...
AYE, THANK YE!

BUT I'VE HEARD WORSE.

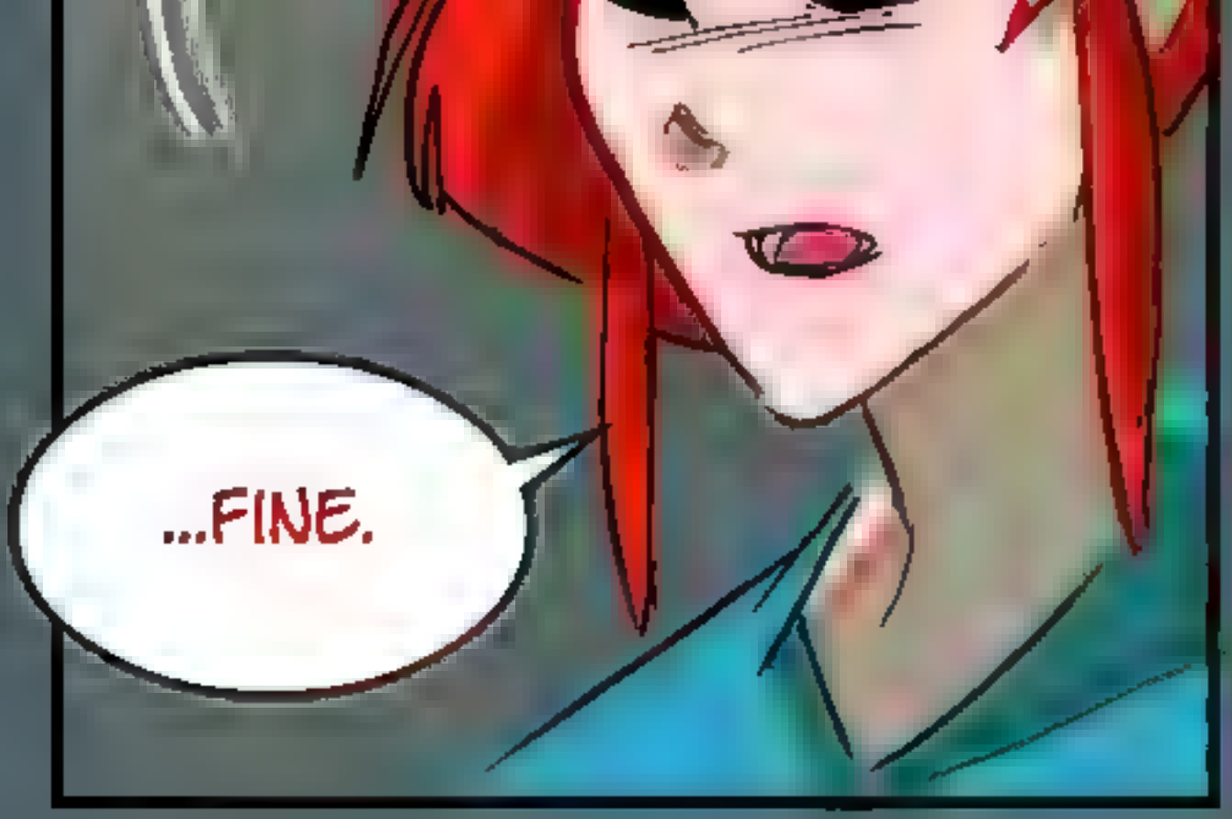
I'M JUST SAYING... LET'S MEET THIS "ALASTAIR" PERSON AND HEAR HIM OUT.

IF WE'RE NOT CONVINCED...

..I PROMISE WE'LL GO BACK TO THE ROOM OF SWORDS.



JUST YOU AND ME.
...


...FINE.

TURN

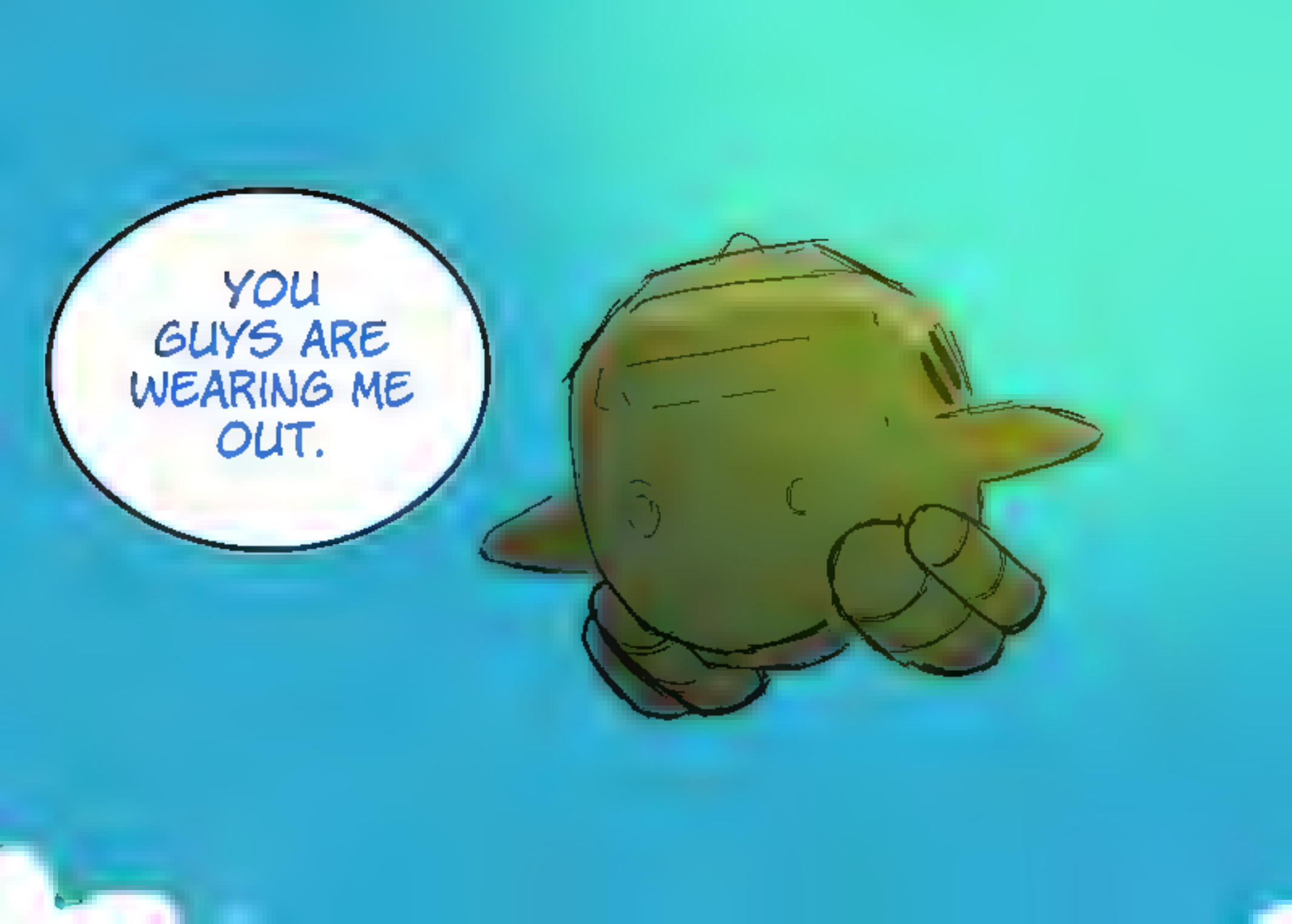
HAAH...
OKAY SURE,
WHATEVER.

ROOM of
SWORDS

STORY/ART: TOONIMATED

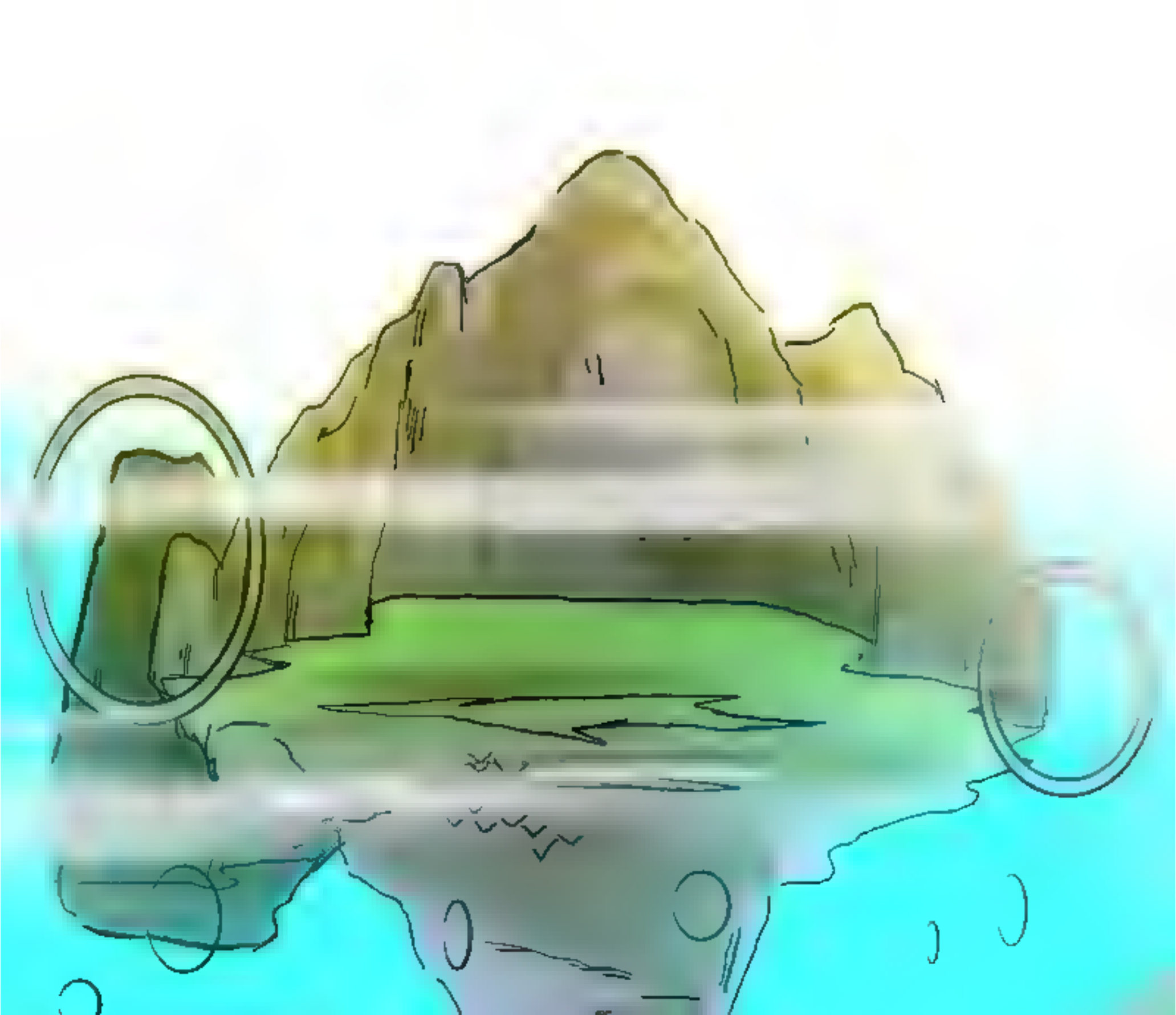
CHAPTER 93

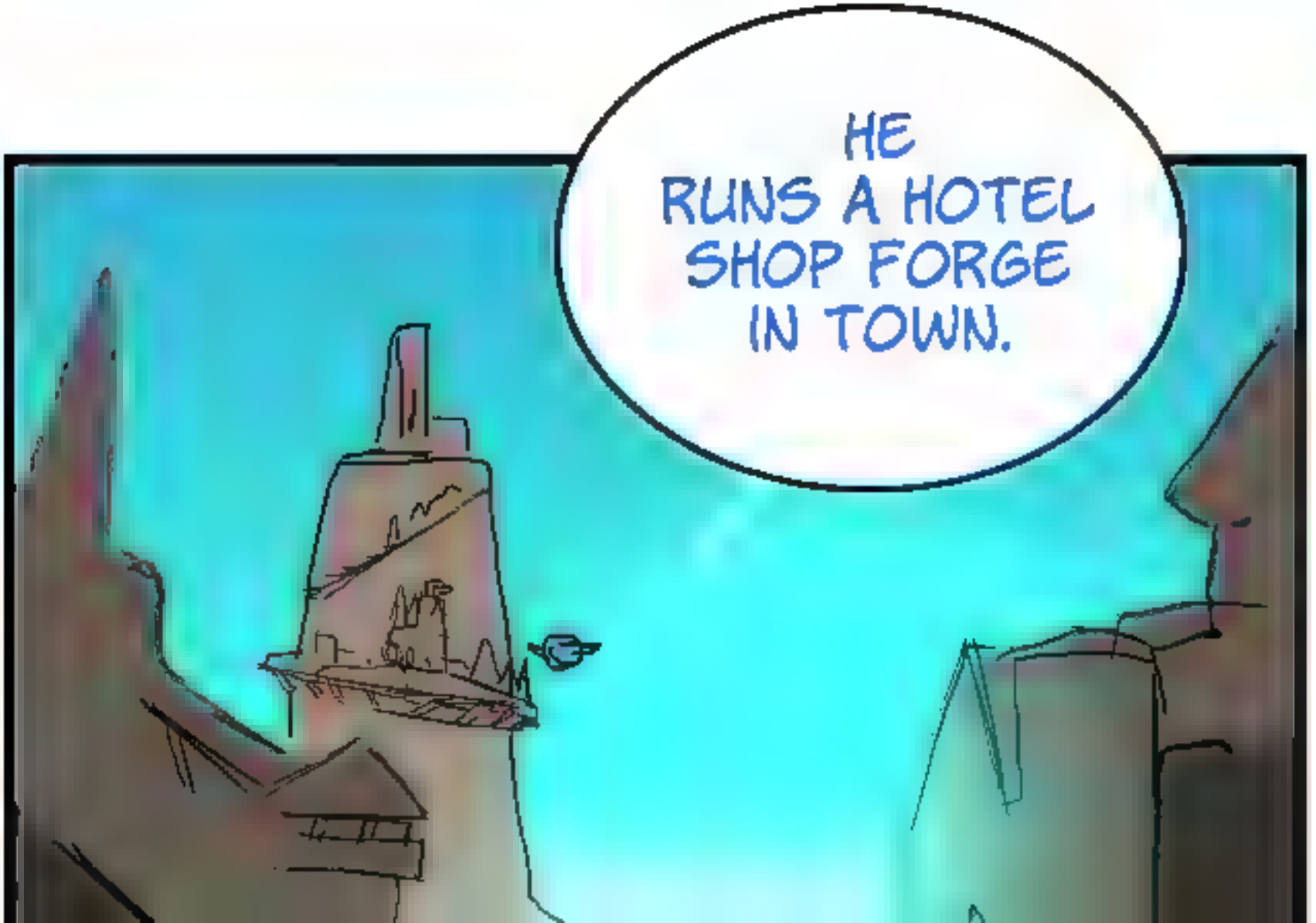
"LARKS' TONGUES IN ACID (PART 1)"


YOU GUYS ARE WEARING ME OUT.

WHEN WE GET TO ALASTAIR'S, I'M GONNA TAKE A LONG HOT BATH!

WHERE EXACTLY DOES THIS GUY LIVE?



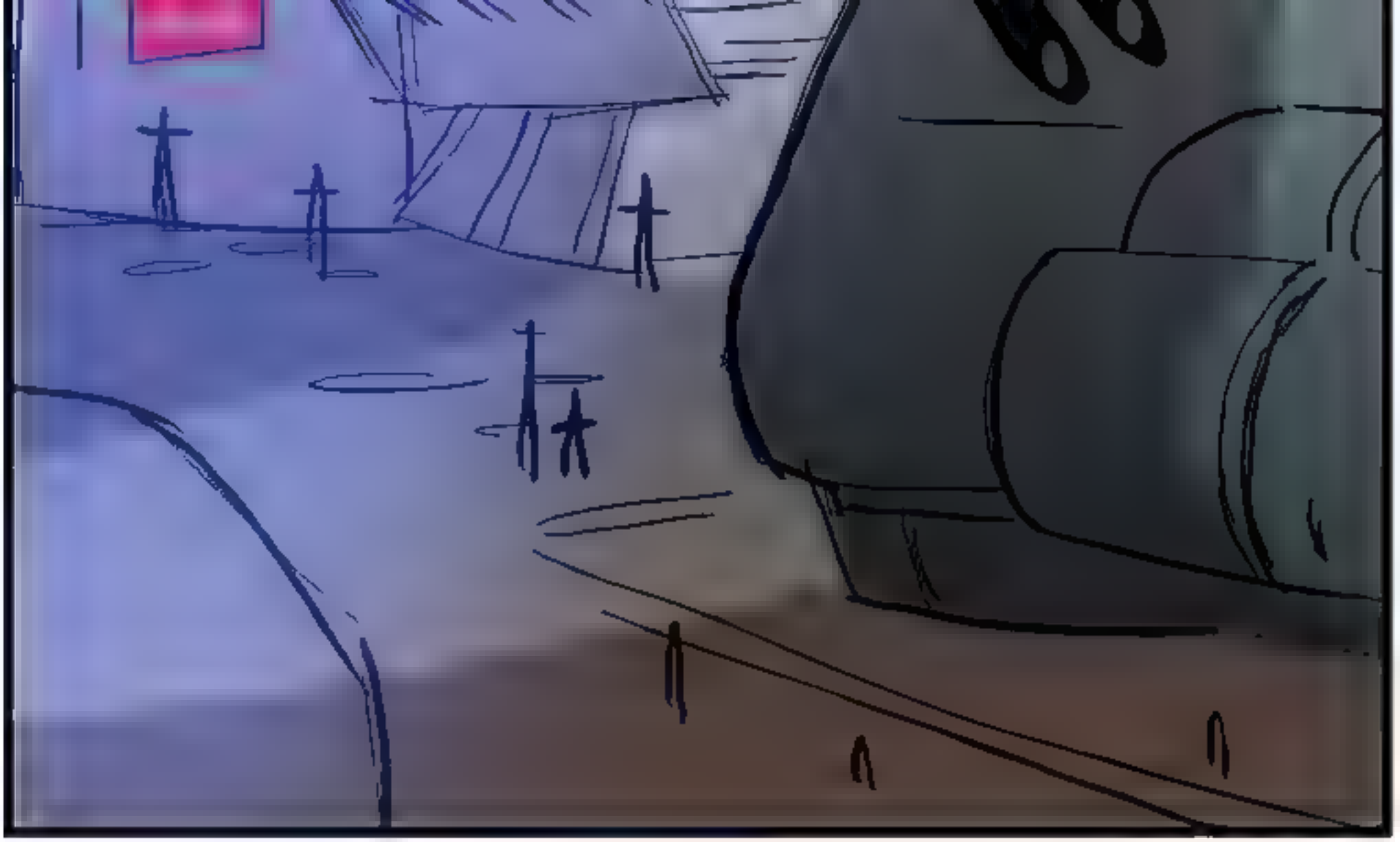

HE
RUNS A HOTEL
SHOP FORGE
IN TOWN.

IT USED TO JUST BE THE TOWN INN WHICH HE TOOK OVER WHILE WE WERE LYING LOW.

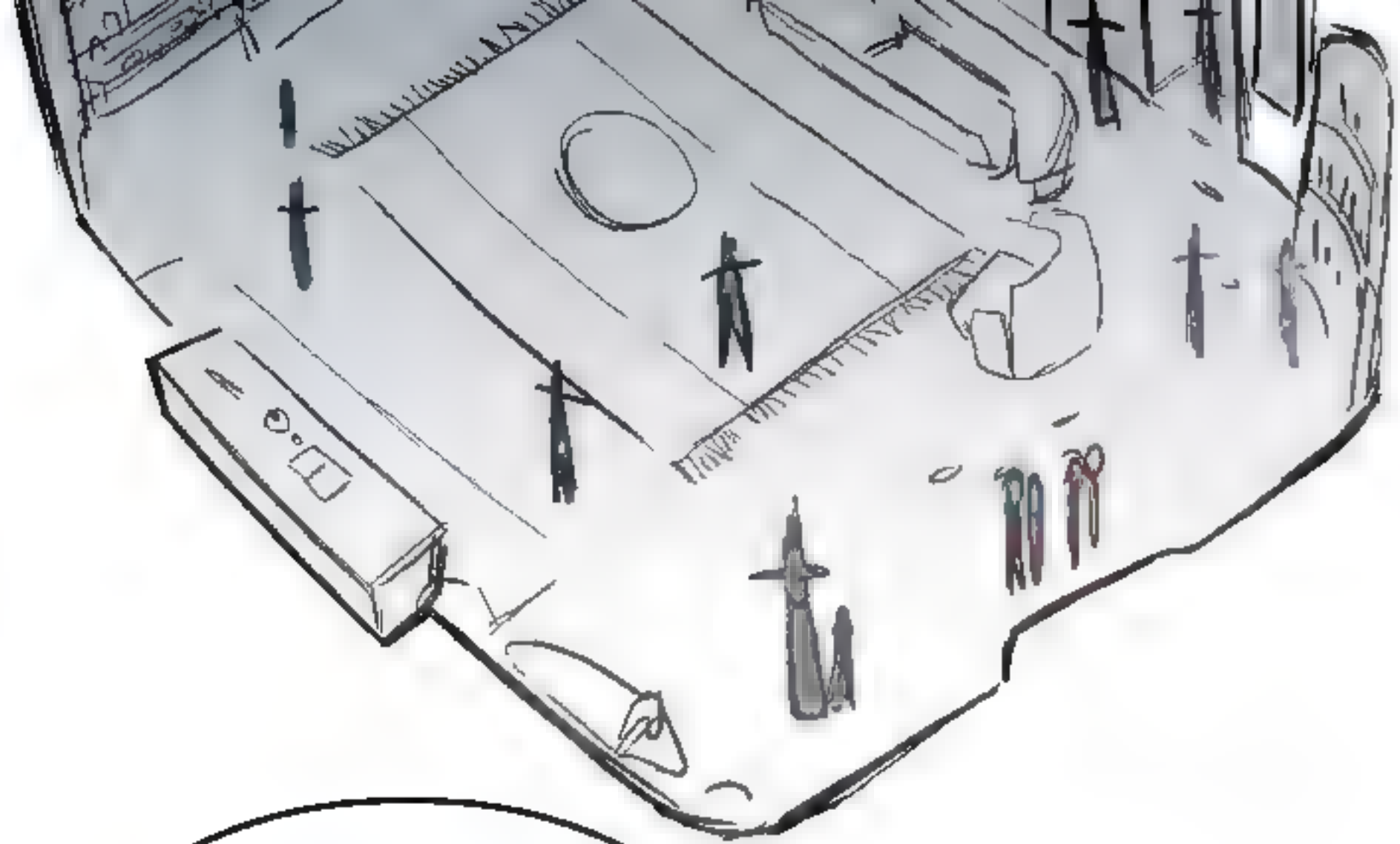
BUT HE
EVENTUALLY
EXPANDED AND RAN
EVERY OTHER SHOP
OUT OF BUSINESS.

SAY
WHAT YOU WANT
ABOUT THE GUY,
HE'S A PRETTY SHREWD
BUSINESS MAN.

$$$
TRADE
SLEEP
SHOP
$$$
CASH!
WE GOT CASH~!

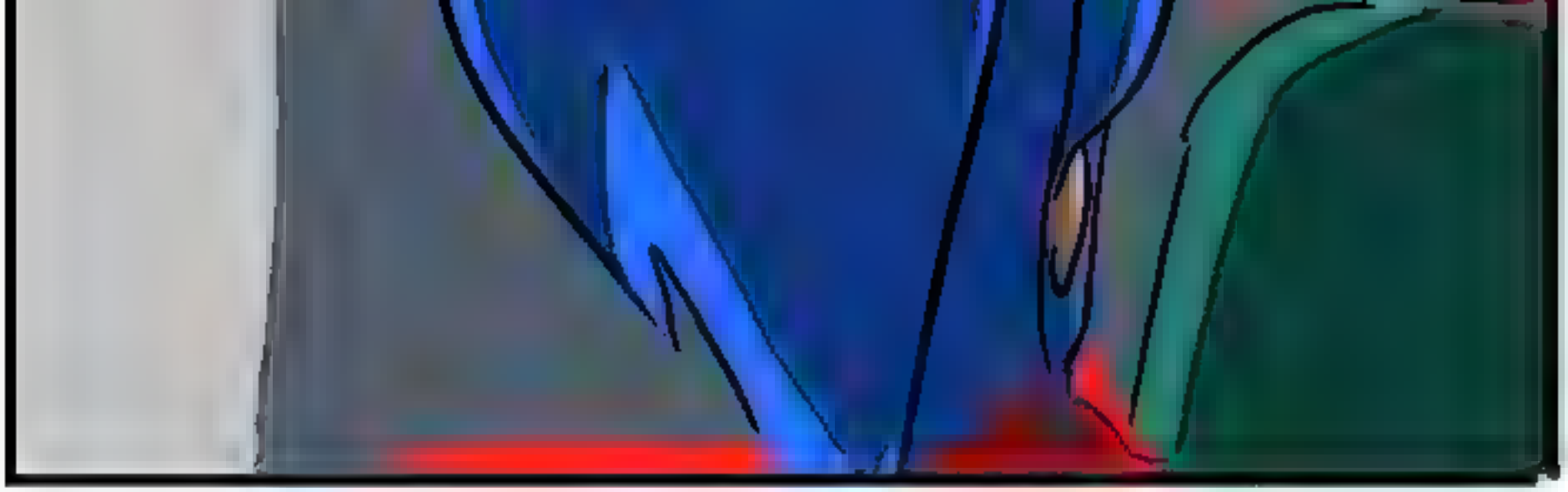


THIS PLACE LOOKS EVEN BIGGER THAN THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.

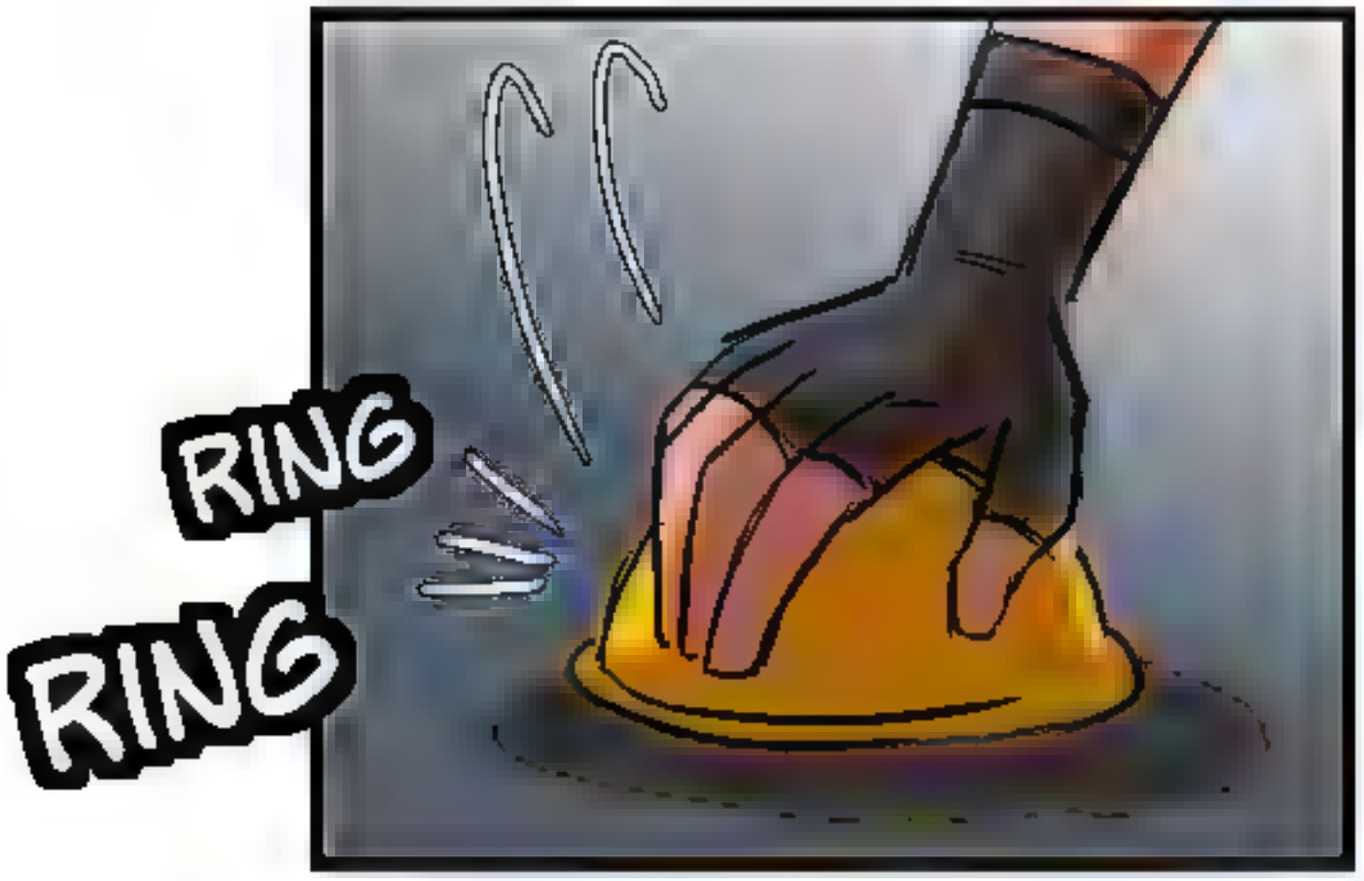


GRANTED, THAT WAS ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO...

LOOK AT ALL THESE CUSTOMERS! BUT WHERE'S ALASTAIR?
Ring for Service



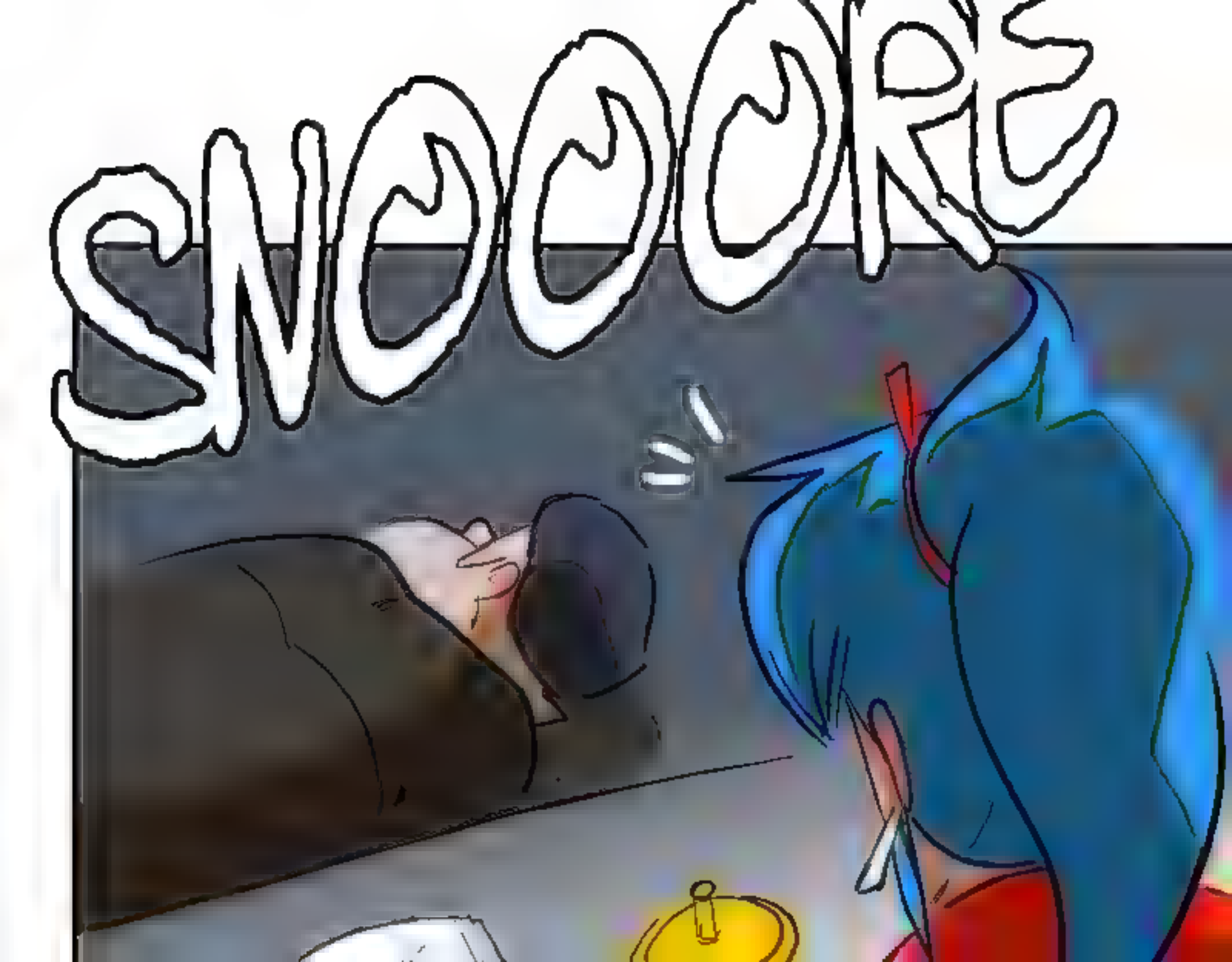
RING FOR SERVICE, HUH? OKAY, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
TAK
TAK

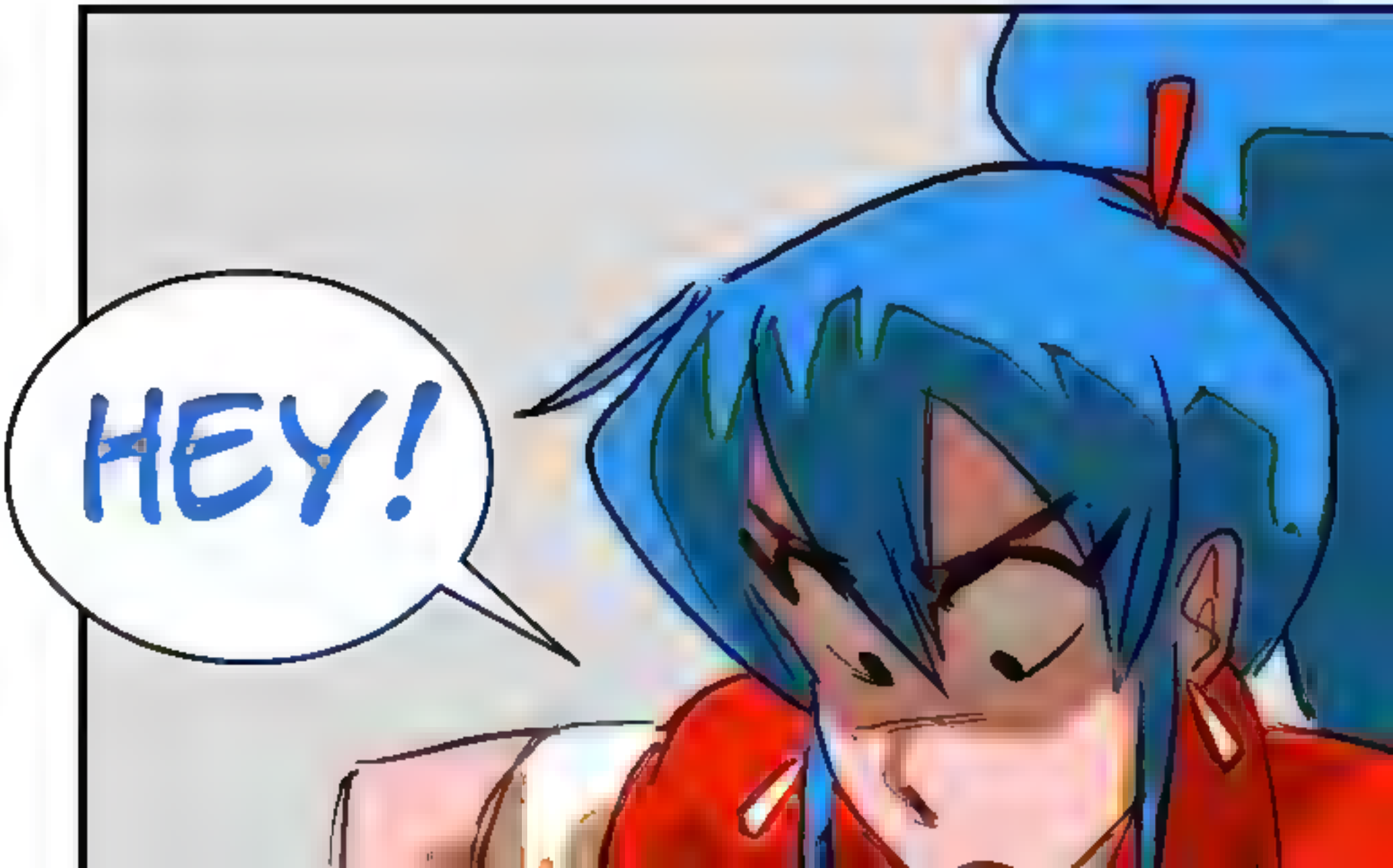


SNORT!

SNORT!
WHAT WAS THAT?
SNOOORE

SMOOCH
LEAN


SNOOORE


HEY!

GRAB

THROW
THUD!

SLEEPING ON THE JOB, OLD MAN?

IF I GO TO BED, I MIGHT MISS A SALE!
AH, BUT NOW YOU WOKE ME UP AND THERE'S NO ONE HERE TO BUY ANYTHING...

SERIOUSLY?
WE COME ALL THE
WAY HERE AFTER TWO
YEARS AND YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT SELLING
STUFF?

DID YOU FORGET YOU'RE NOT *REALLY* A SHOPKEEPER?

NOW WAIT A MINUTE!

IF YOU'RE HERE, THAT MUST MEAN...

HE'S BACK!!

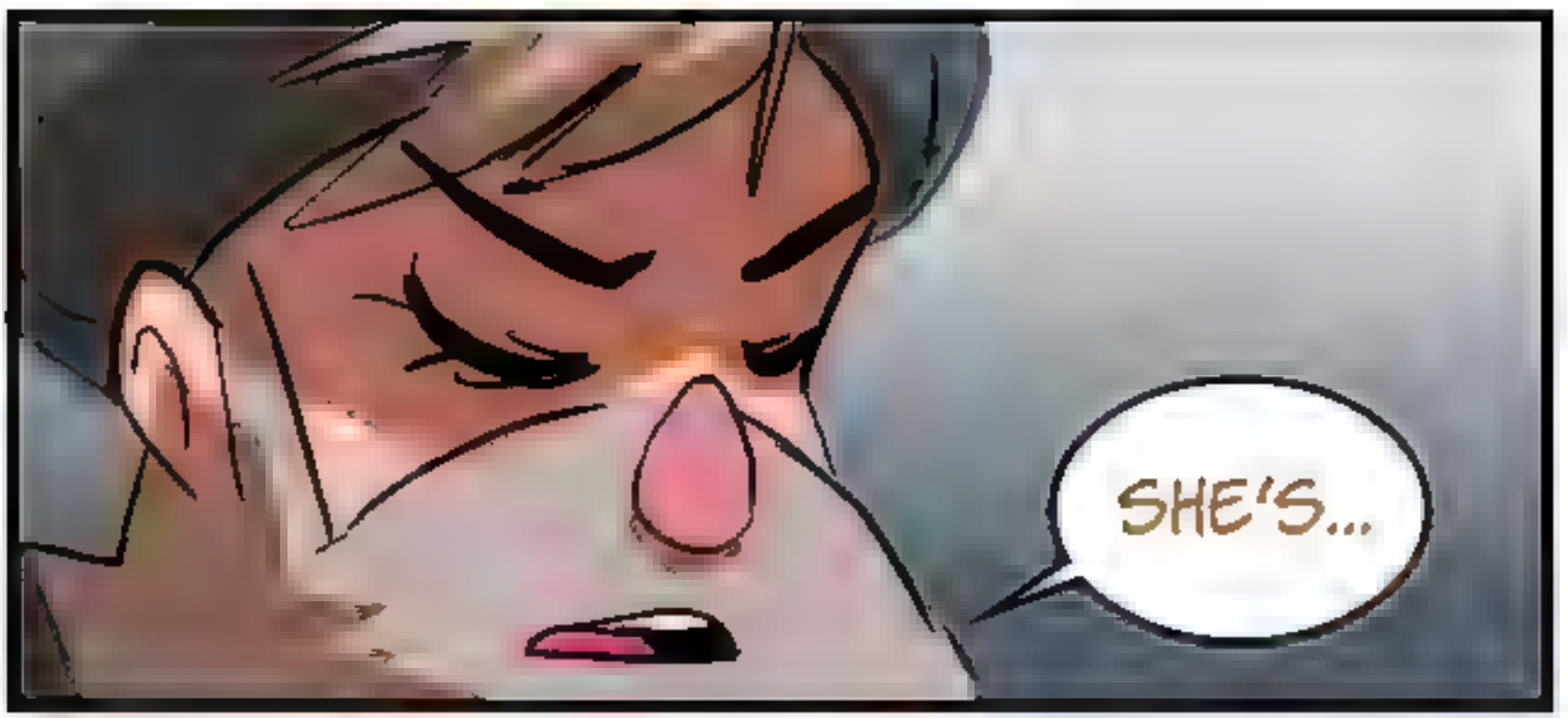
PUSH

IT
WORKED!!

BUT WAIT...
THERE'S SOMETHING OFF.

WITH GYRUS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHE WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN!


SHE'S...

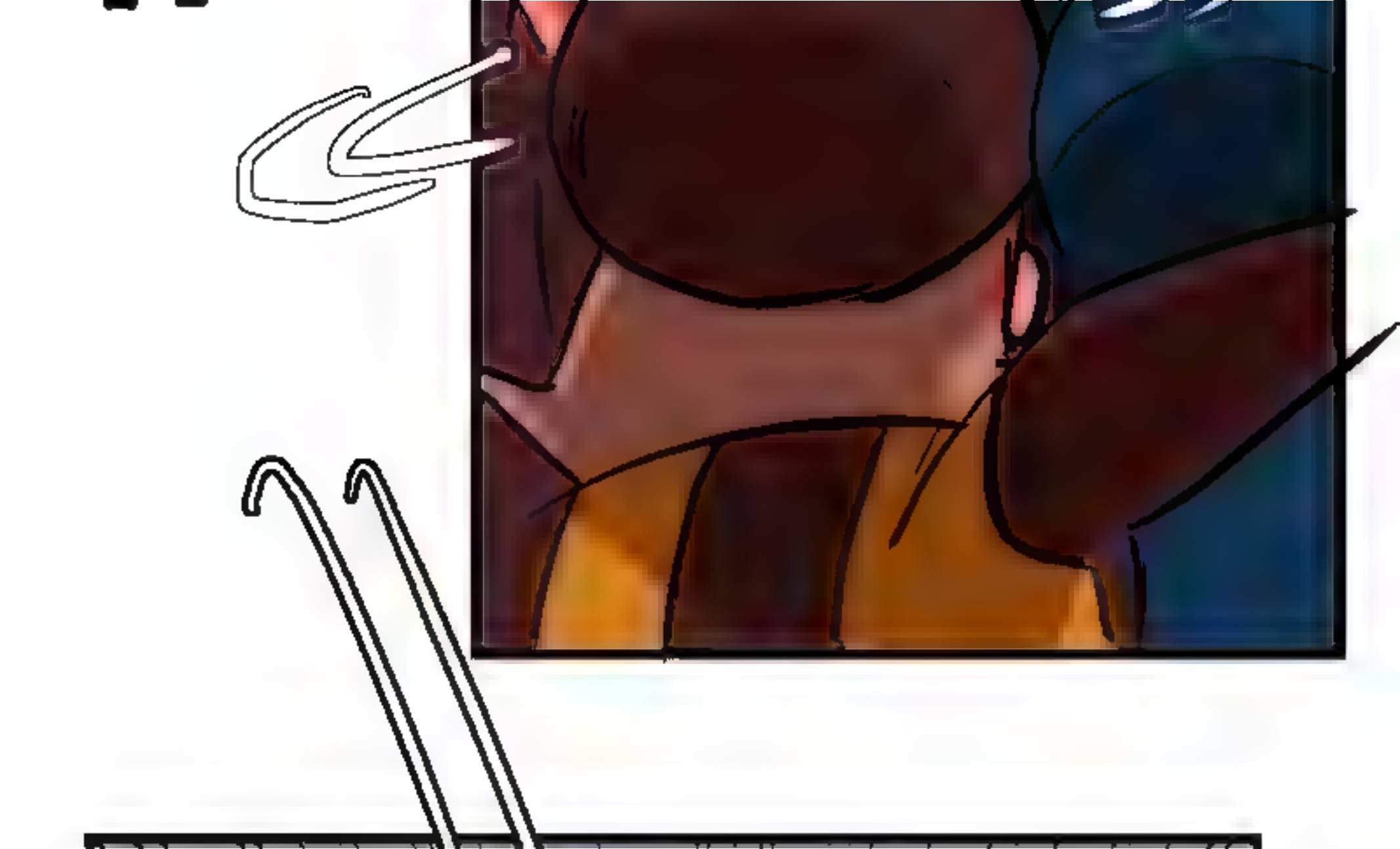
BEAUTIFUL!!!

WELCOME TO THE CREW!
JUMP

C'MERE, FRIENDS HUG!

squish

RRRRRRR



BOMF!

OW OW
OW

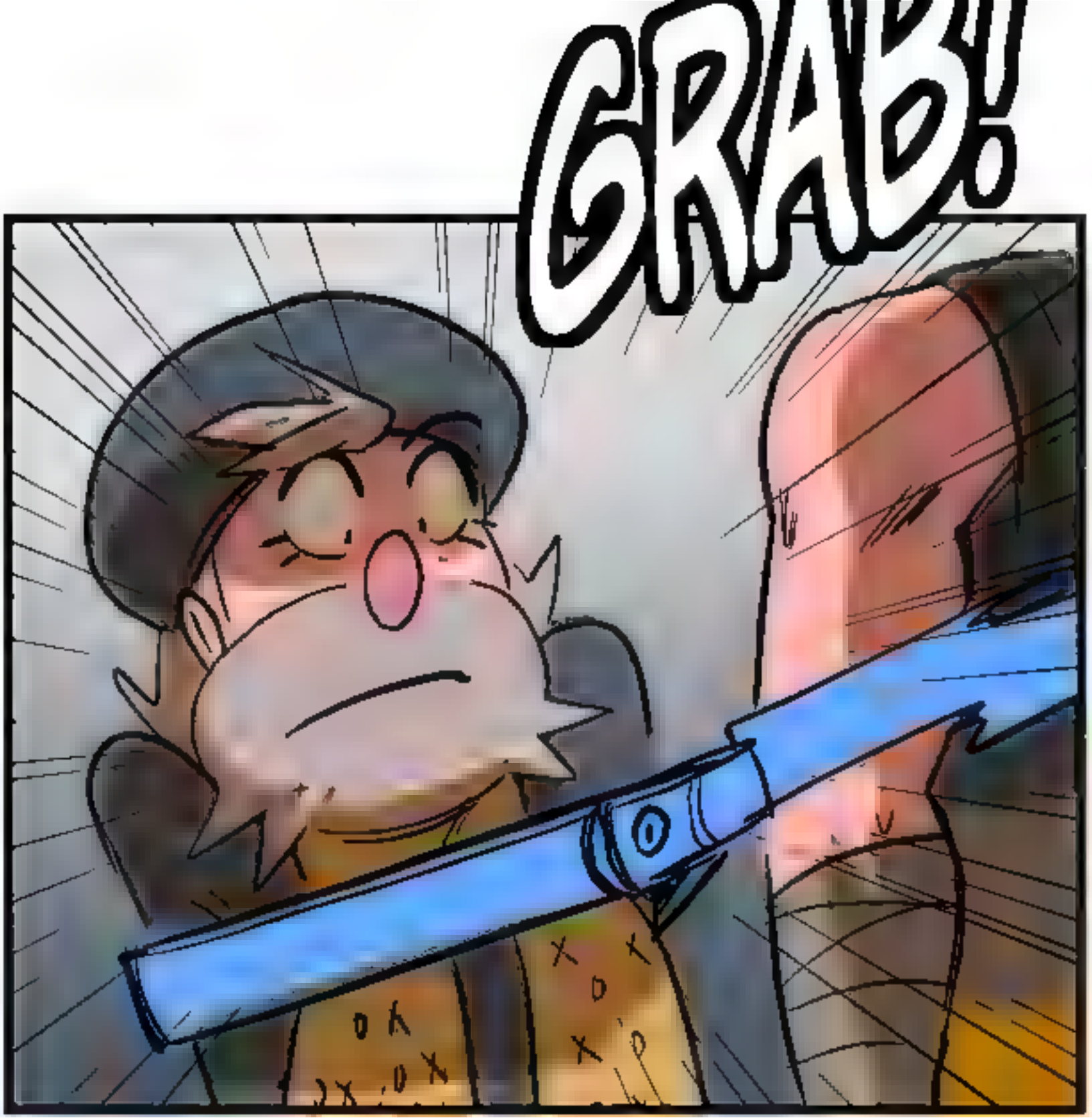
THAT BEAUTIFUL ROSE HAS GOT SOME THORNS.

SNIFF
SNIFF
BUT I KNOW WHAT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BETTER!

HOLD ME IN YOUR BIG STRONG ARMS!

JUMP

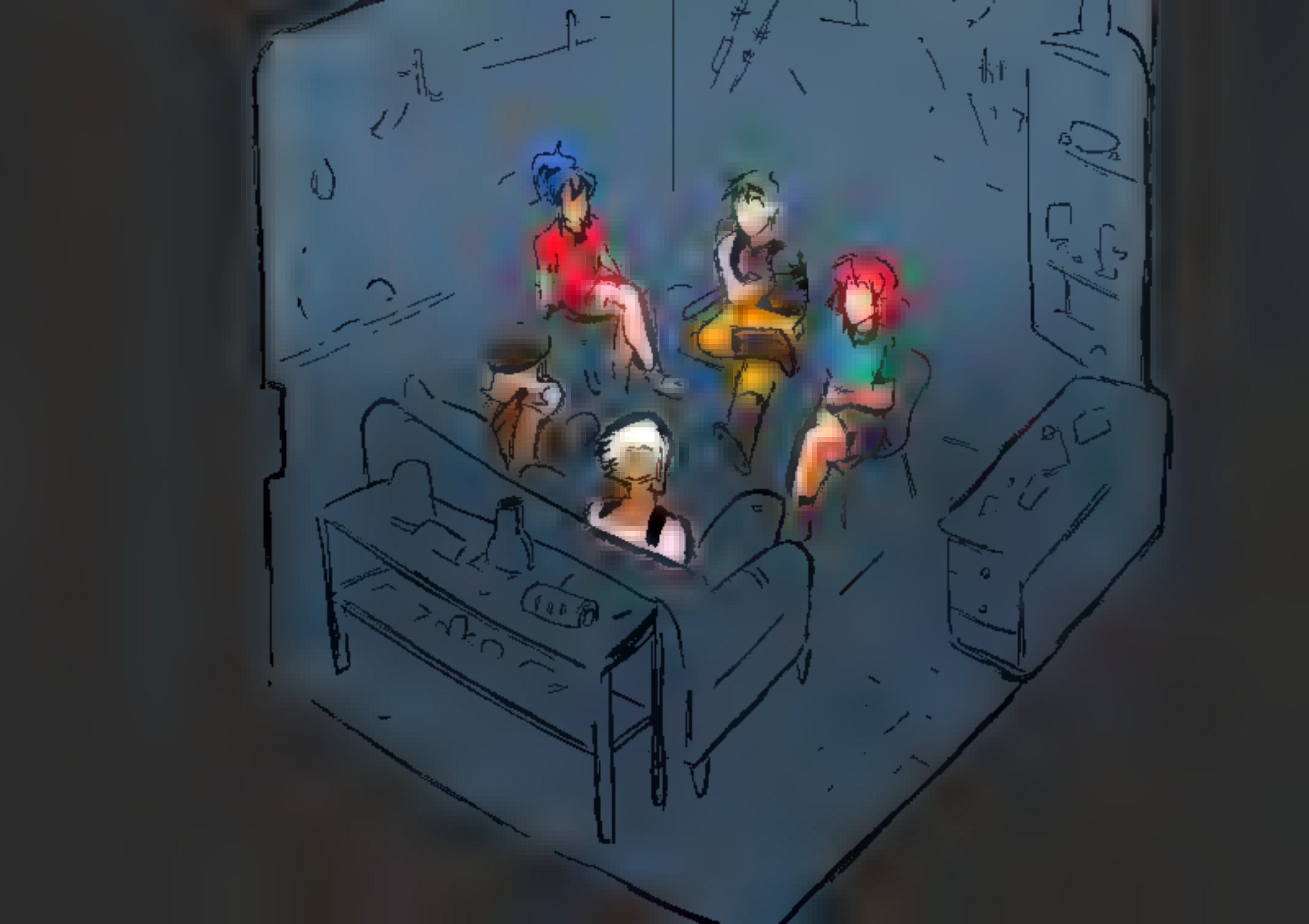
OI, GET OFF!


GRAB!

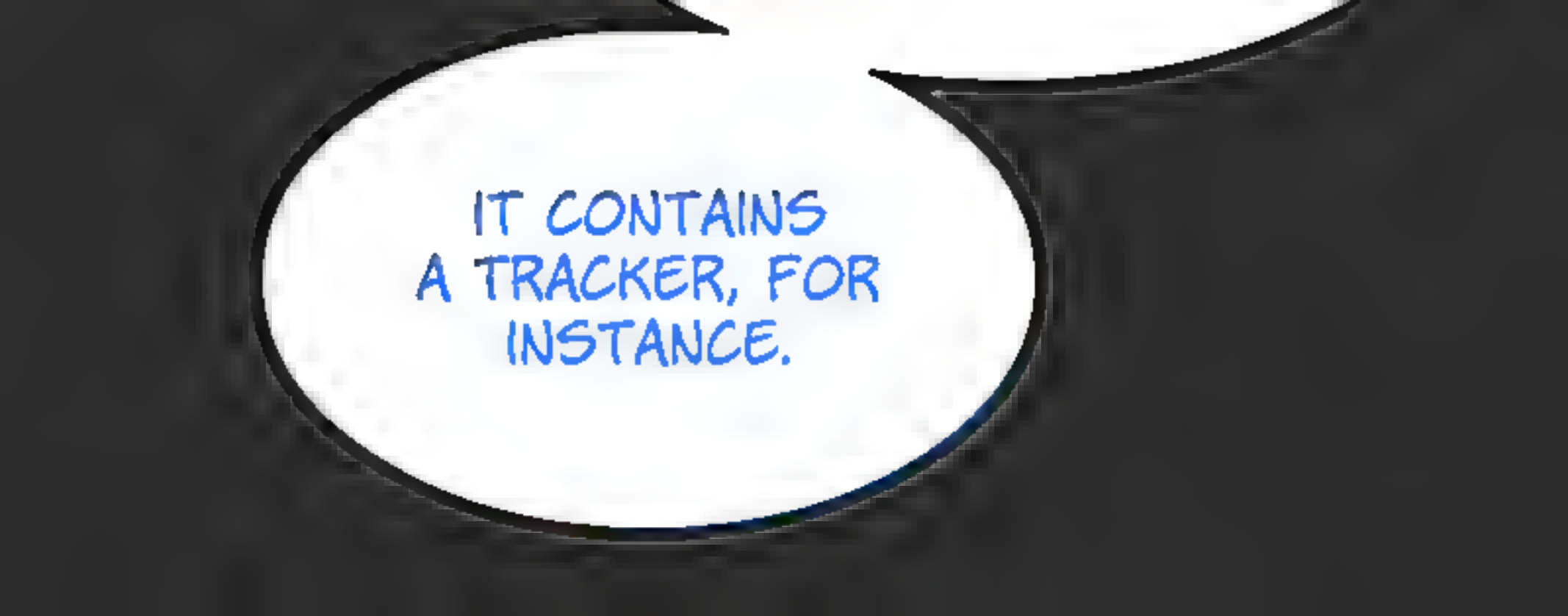
I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL THE NONSENSE I CAN HANDLE TODAY.
WE NEED TO TALK.

AH WELL, WHY DIDNT YOU SAY SO?
WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE.

NOT EVERYTHING HAS GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN, BUT WE MADE IT HERE IN ONE PIECE.



EVEN THE IMPLANT WORKED LIKE A CHARM. WE MADE IT TO TWO REALMS ON ONE CHARGE.
ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO KNOX'S READINGS, SOMEONE MADE SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THE ORIGINAL DESIGN...

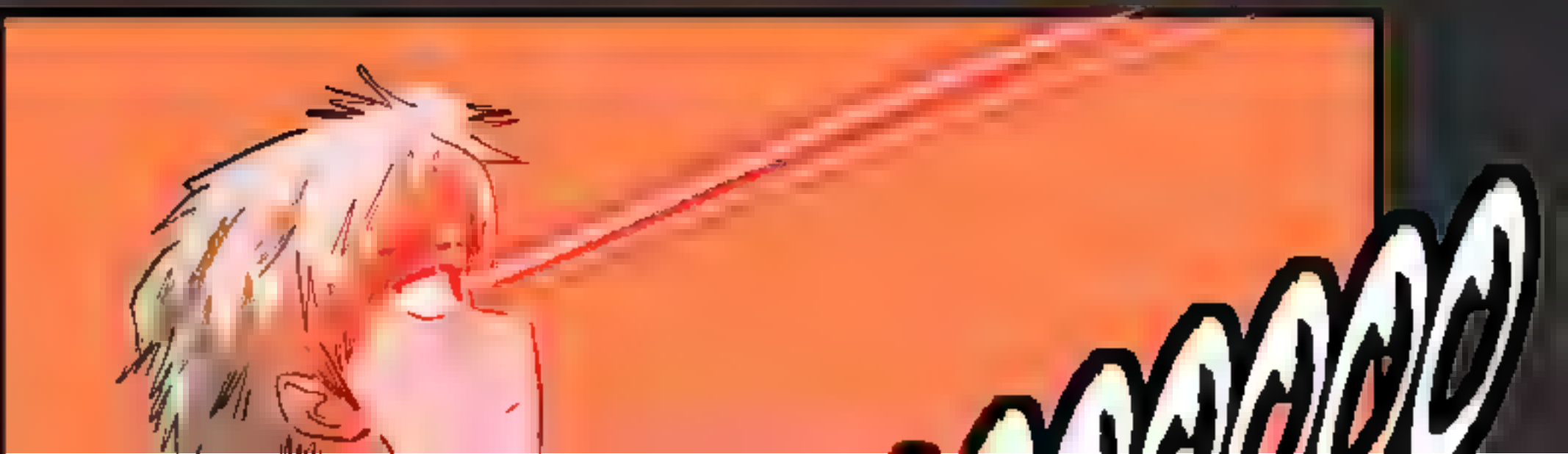

IT CONTAINS
A TRACKER, FOR
INSTANCE.

HMM...
SO THEY
KNOW WHERE
WE ARE.

BUT WILL THEY BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US?

WE SHOULD BE FINE.
ACCORDING TO THESE TWO, THEY SENT OUT THE BIGGEST PARTY THEY COULD MANAGE SINCE THEY BELIEVED THE REALM WAS DIFFICULT.

GYRUS' PLAN TO HAVE KNOX DESTROY ALL THE MINISCOUTS WITHIN 10 SECONDS SEEMS TO HAVE DONE THE TRICK.



zzzooooooooo
ooooooooooo

THEY'D HAVE TO BE DESPERATE BEFORE THEY'D SEND OUT ANY FIGHERS WITHOUT A SWORD.

THEY MIGHT GET DESPERATE EVENTUALLY, BUT BY THEN, WE'LL BE READY.
HEHE

YE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE ROOM OF SWORDS.
WE SENT OUR BEST FIGHTERS ON THAT MISSION.

THEY MAY WELL COMPLETE THAT REALM WITH EASE.

YEAH,
WE THOUGHT
ABOUT THAT.

SO ALASTAIR HAS BEEN HOLDING ONTO THE SWORD FROM THAT REALM.

THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO OPEN THE REALM'S GATE WITHOUT THIS!

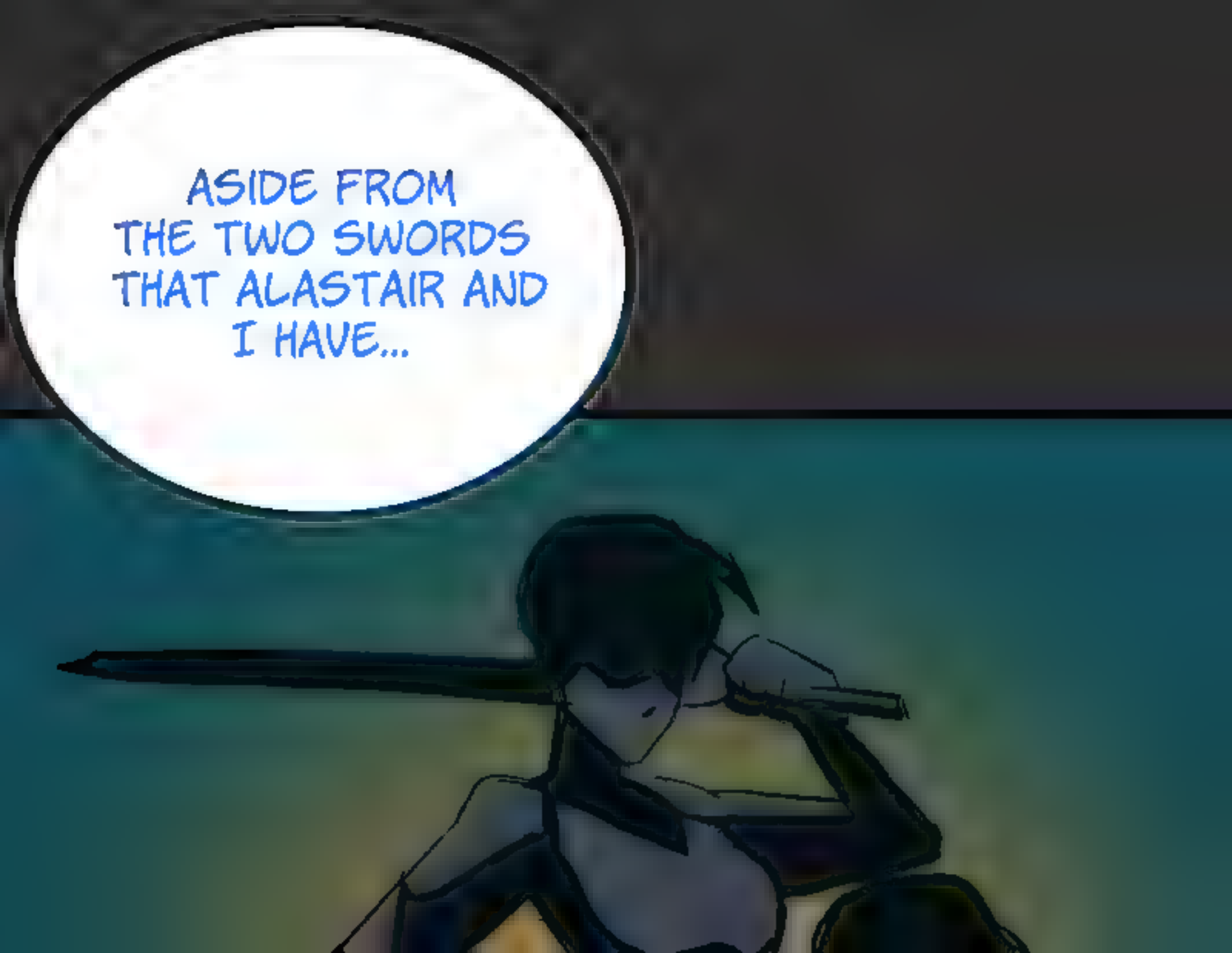
SO
THEY ARE
TRAPPED?!

IT'S SAFER THIS WAY.

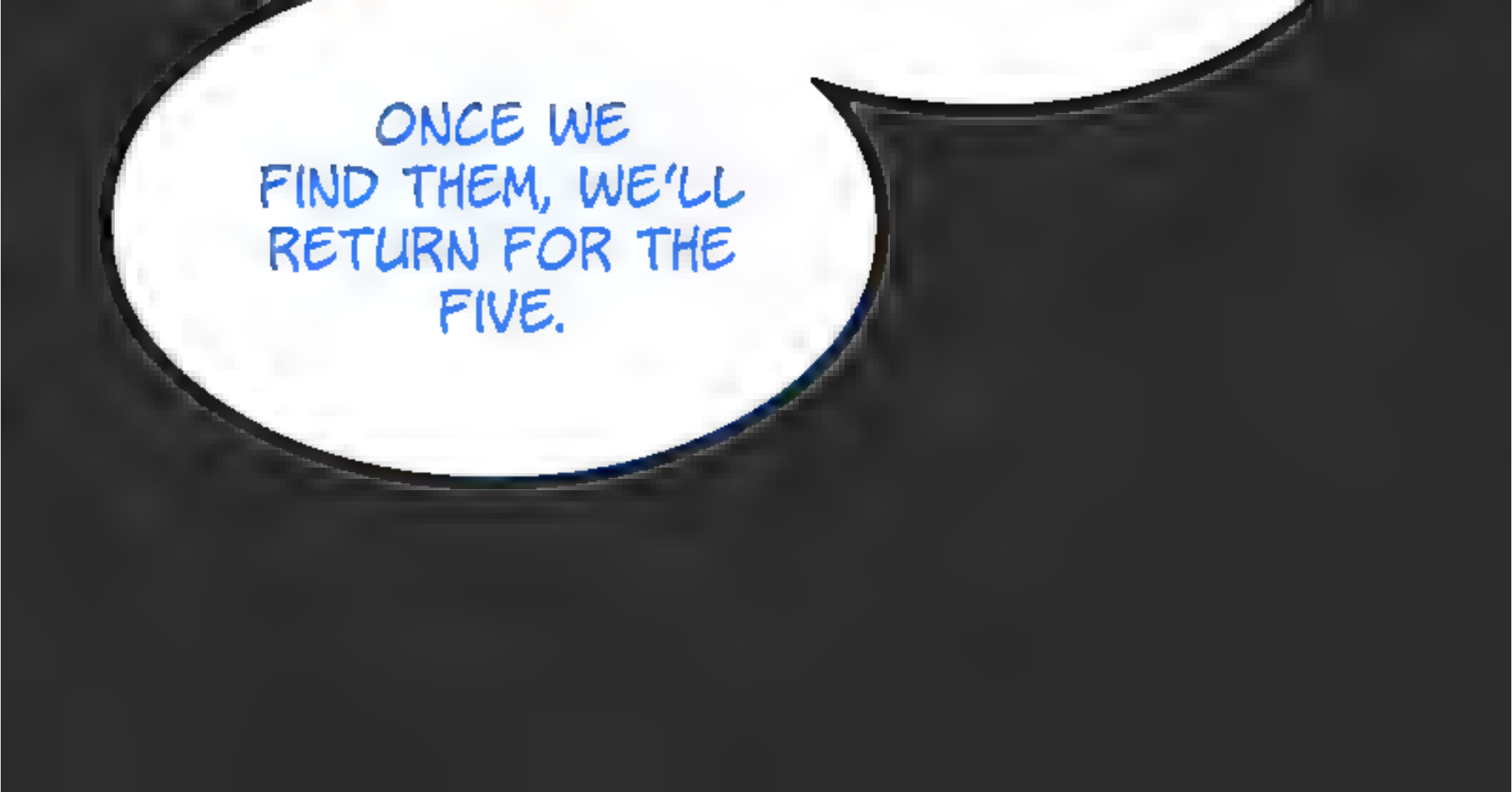
THEY'LL BE OUT OF OUR WAY, AND THEIR 5 SWORDS WILL STAY ACCOUNTED FOR.

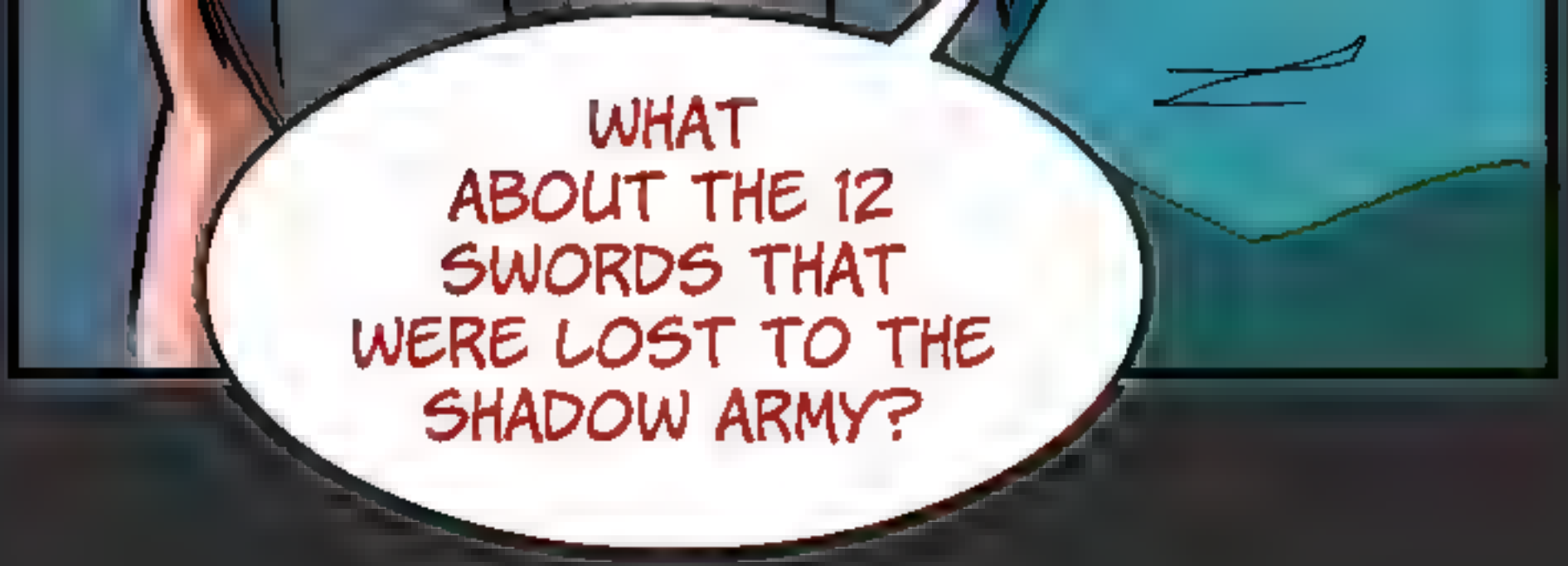
MEANWHILE,
THE ROOM OF SWORDS
WILL BE FLAILING TO
REGAIN CONTROL.

THAT WILL BUY
US THE TIME WE NEED
TO REGROUP.


ASIDE FROM
THE TWO SWORDS
THAT ALASTAIR AND
I HAVE...

THERE ARE THREE MORE THAT OUR COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN HOLDING ONTO IN THE REMAINING REALMS.


ONCE WE FIND THEM, WE'LL RETURN FOR THE FIVE.


WHAT ABOUT THE 12 SWORDS THAT WERE LOST TO THE SHADOW ARMY?

THOSE ARE WITH GYRUS.

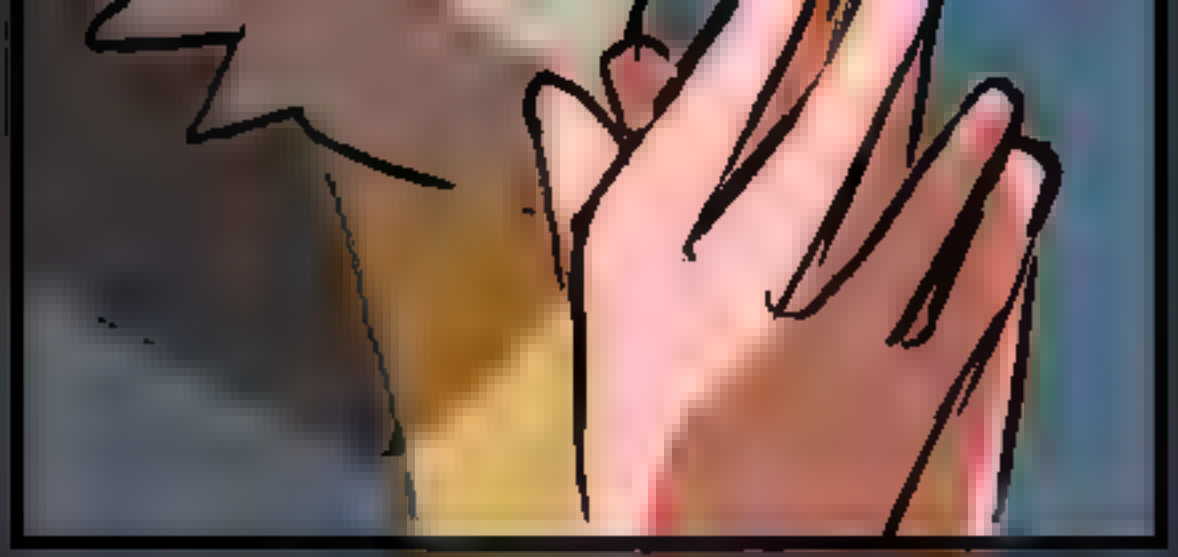
IT'S TRUE... I DO HAVE THEM.

BUT THEY'RE... LOCKED AWAY. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN THEM.

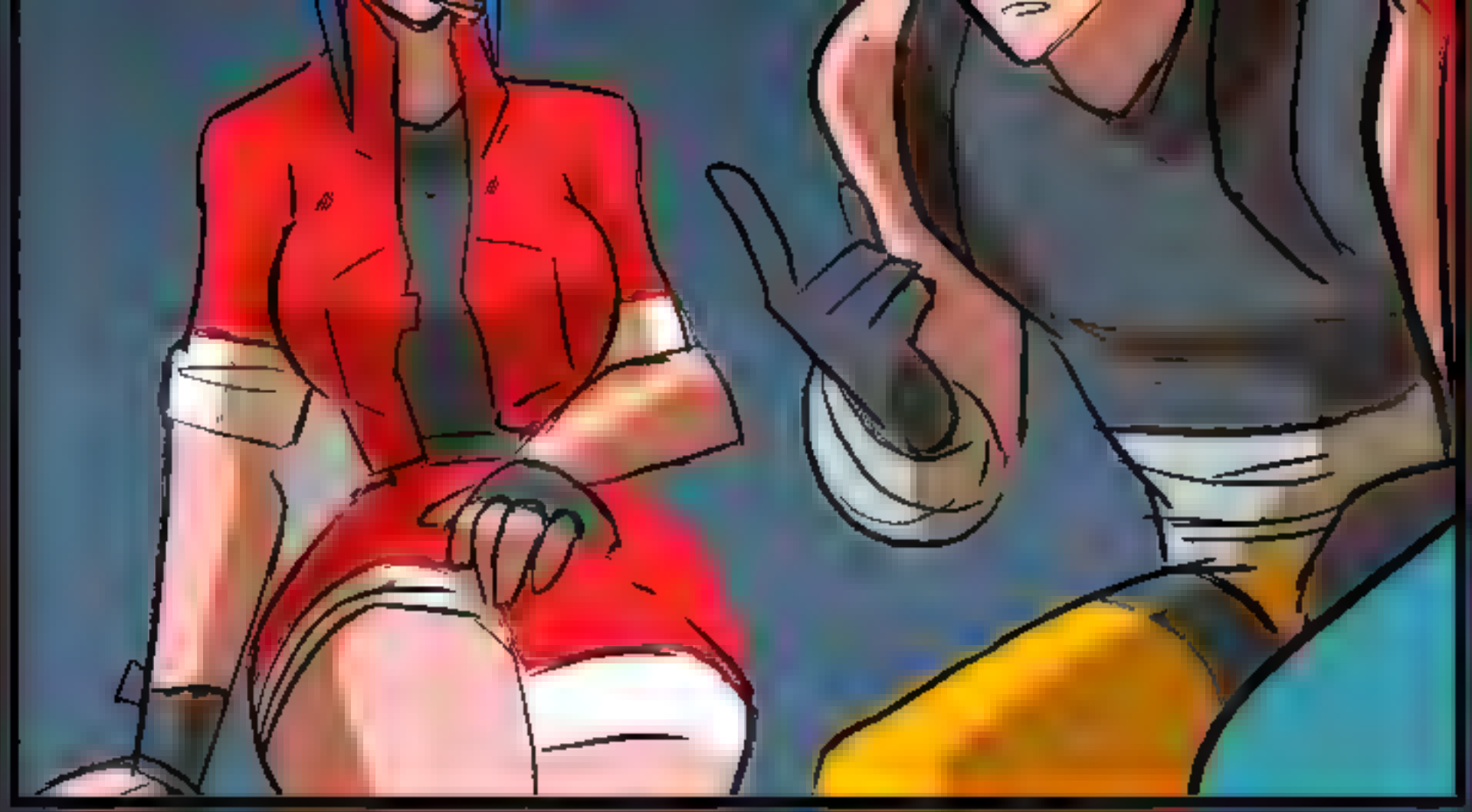
JUST
GIVE IT TIME,
IT'LL ALL COME
FLOODING BACK
LIKE ALWAYS.

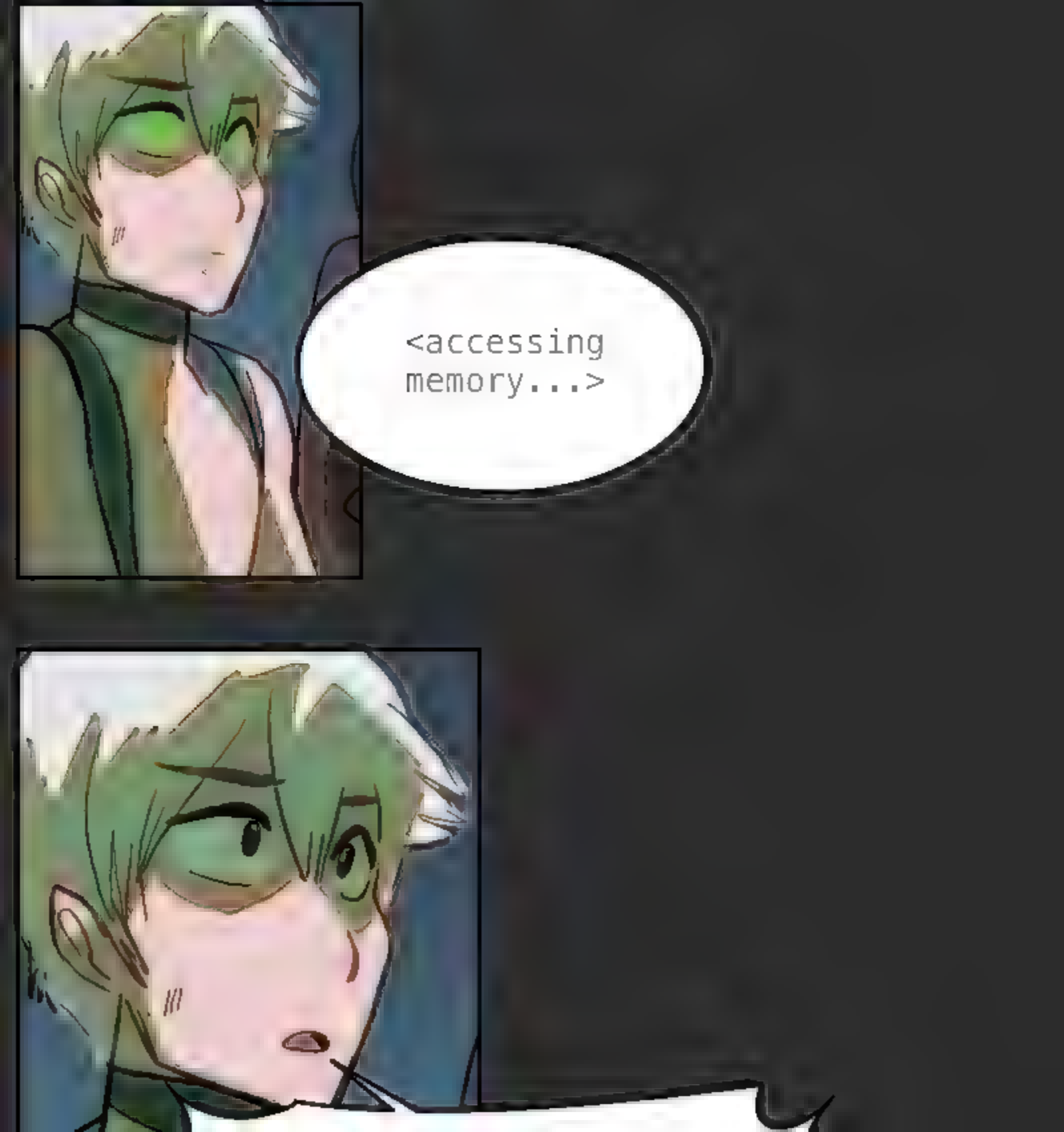
...“ALWAYS”?

THERE'S A PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT EVERY TIME YOU'VE BEEN RESET...
BUT THEN YOU SPEND SOME TIME IN THE BLACK BOX, AND YOU PICK RIGHT BACK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF.



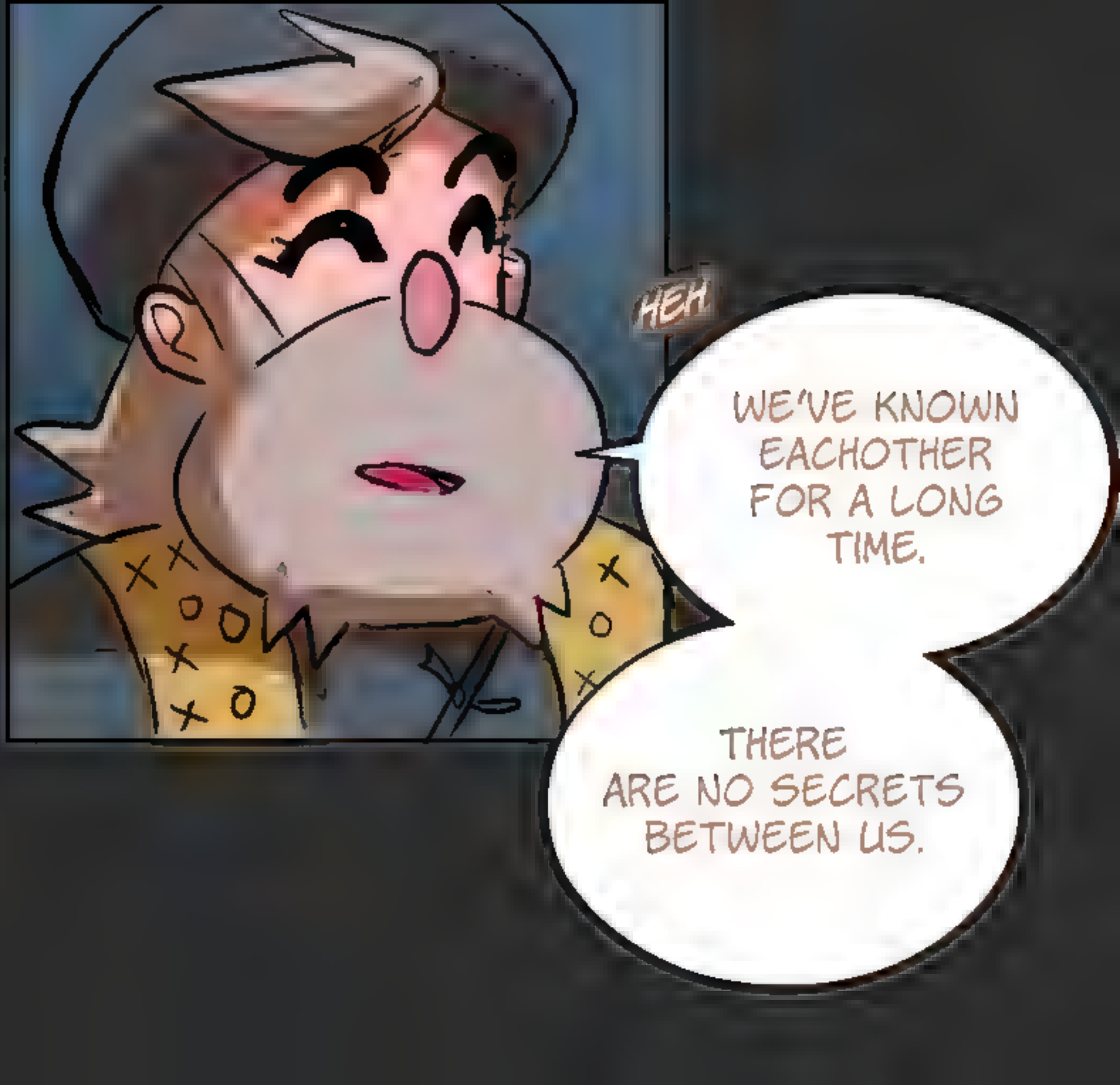
I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE BLACK BOX?

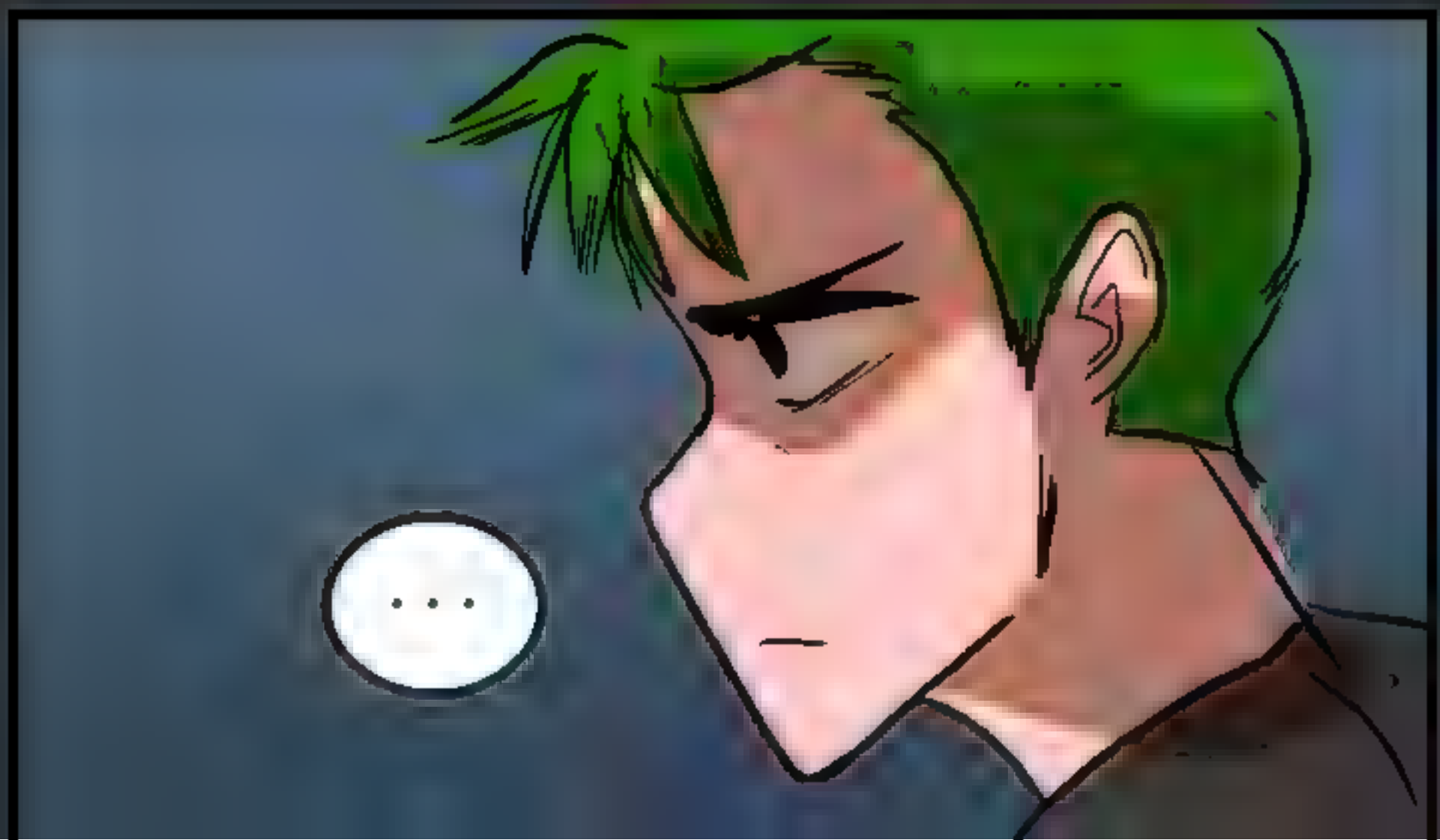



<accessing
memory...>

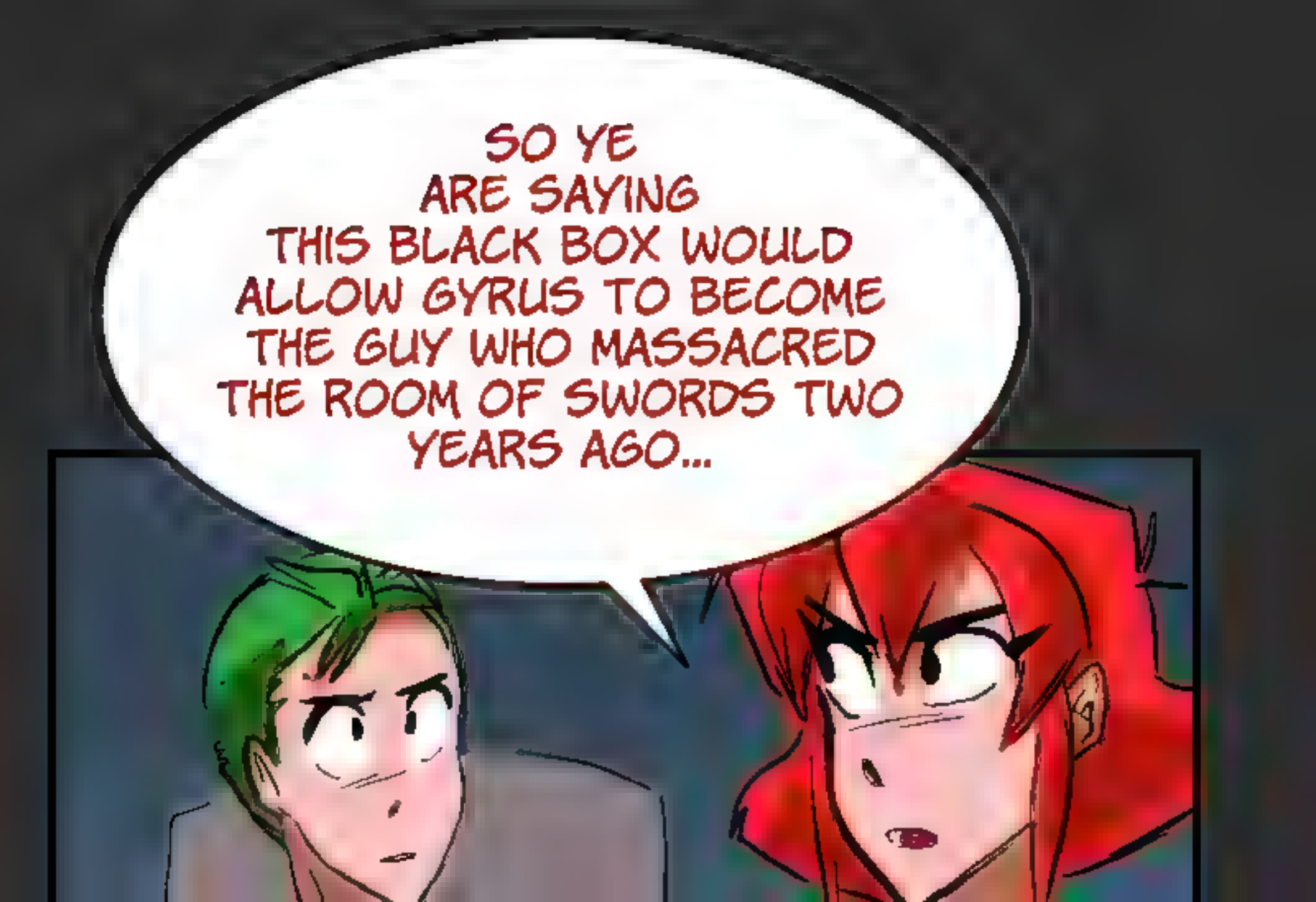
"I CAN RELIVE MOMENTS IN JUST AS MUCH DETAIL AS THE DAY THEY HAPPENED...
...AND THAT'S NOT ALL. I'VE SEEN MOMENTS THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER LIVING. IT MIGHT BE SORT OF LIKE A BLACK BOX..."

THAT VOICE...

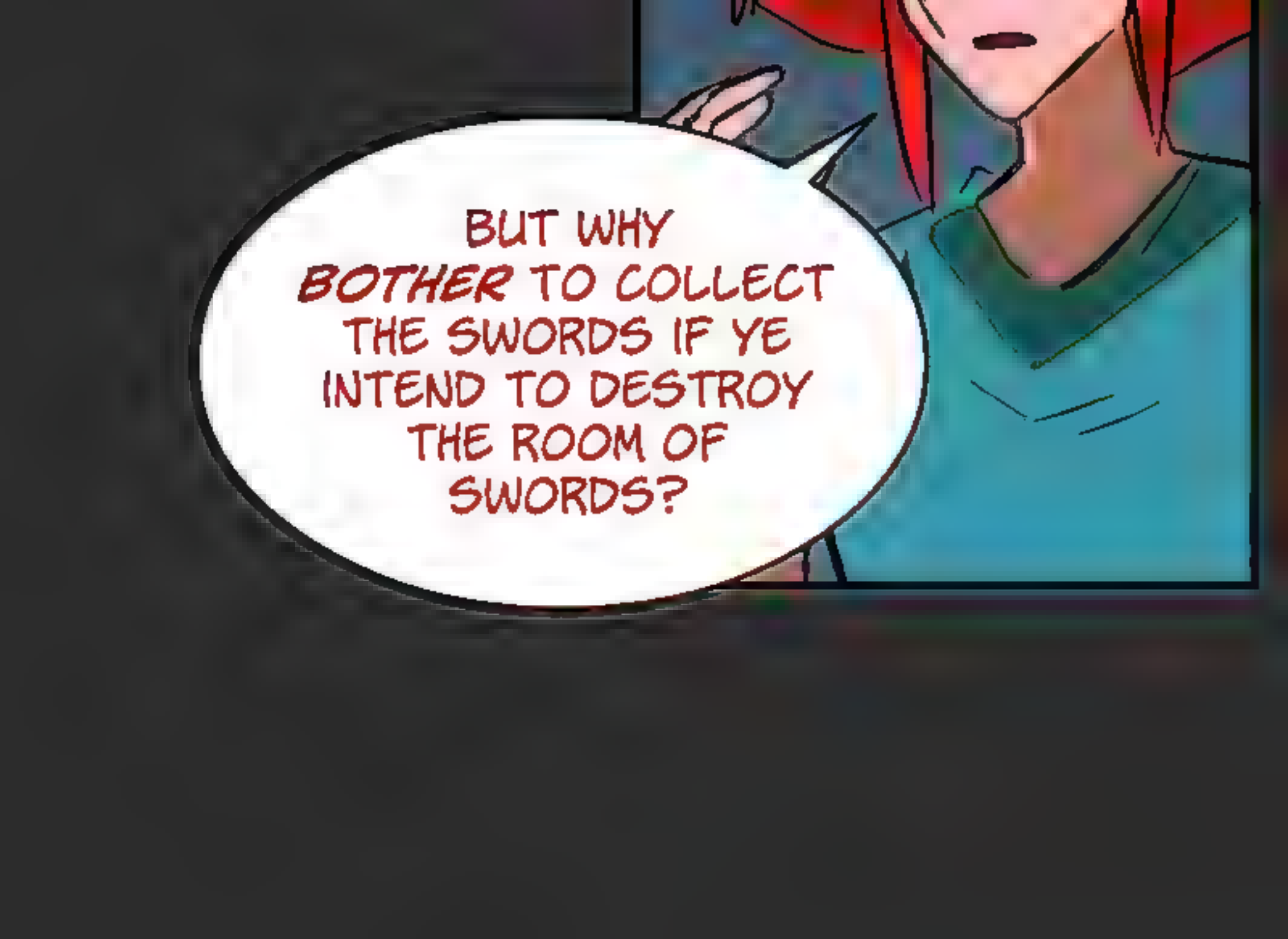

HEH
WE'VE KNOWN EACHOTHER FOR A LONG TIME.
THERE ARE NO SECRETS BETWEEN US.

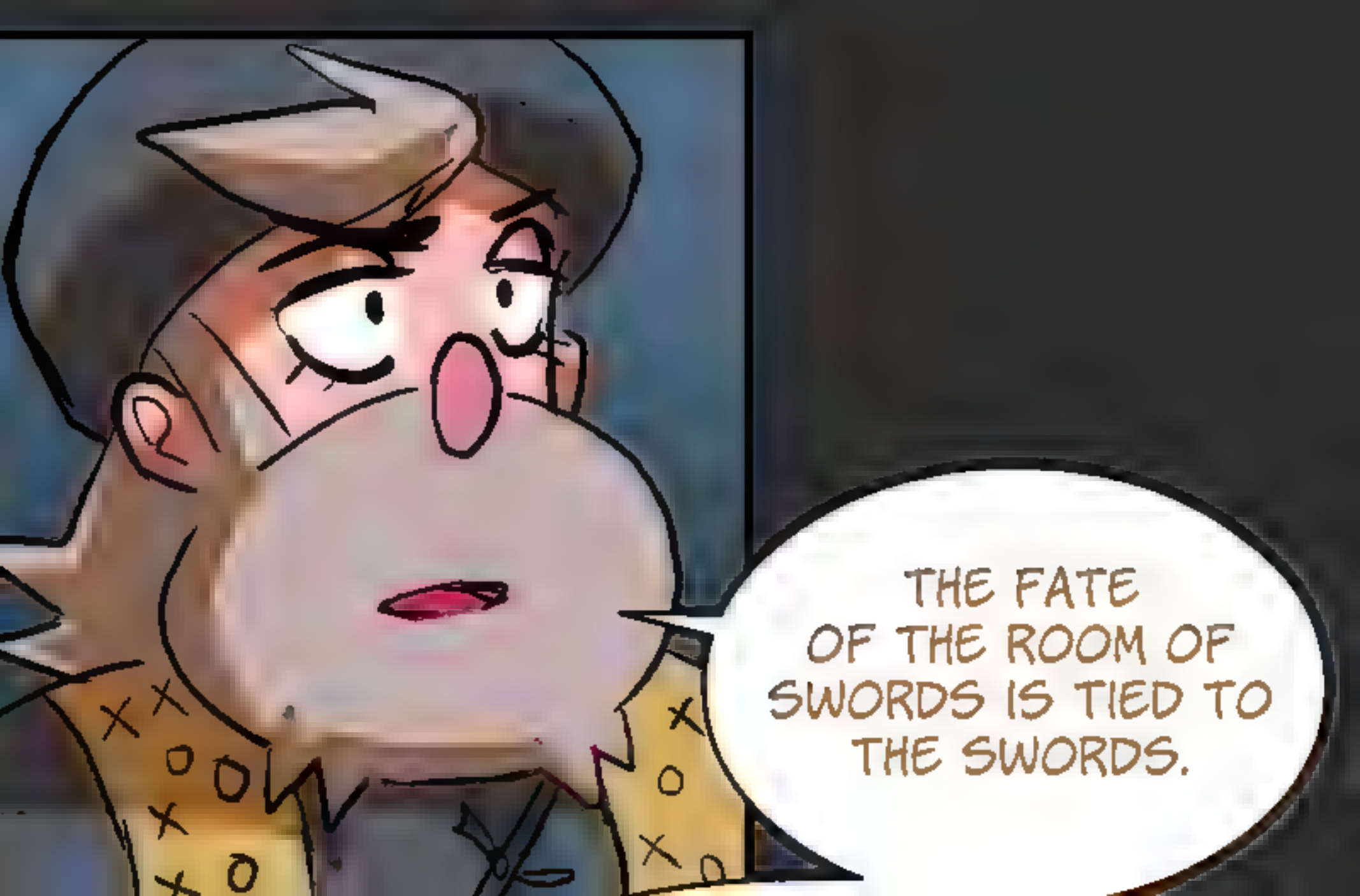


HE GETS ANGRY WHEN WE TALK ABOUT OUR FRIENDSHIP.
OOH?


SO YE ARE SAYING THIS BLACK BOX WOULD ALLOW GYRUS TO BECOME THE GUY WHO MASSACRED THE ROOM OF SWORDS TWO YEARS AGO...

THAT EXPLAINS... A LOT, ACTUALLY.


BUT WHY
BOTHER TO COLLECT
THE SWORDS IF YE
INTEND TO DESTROY
THE ROOM OF
SWORDS?


THE FATE OF THE ROOM OF SWORDS IS TIED TO THE SWORDS.

AND
DESTROYING IT
IS THE ONLY WAY TO MEET THE
TERMS OF THE CONTRACT YOU
ENTERED TO COME HERE.
"CONTRACT"?
WHAT CONTRACT?

THINK
ABOUT IT...

WASN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU WERE LONGING FOR BACK HOME THAT JUST SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE?

SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD HAVE DONE *ANYTHING* FOR?

AND IF SOMEONE OFFERED YOU THAT THING IN EXCHANGE FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE GONE THROUGH HERE...

WOULD YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THE DEAL?

IF
SOMEONE COULD
OFFER ME SUCH A THING,
OF COURSE I WOULD
ACCEPT.

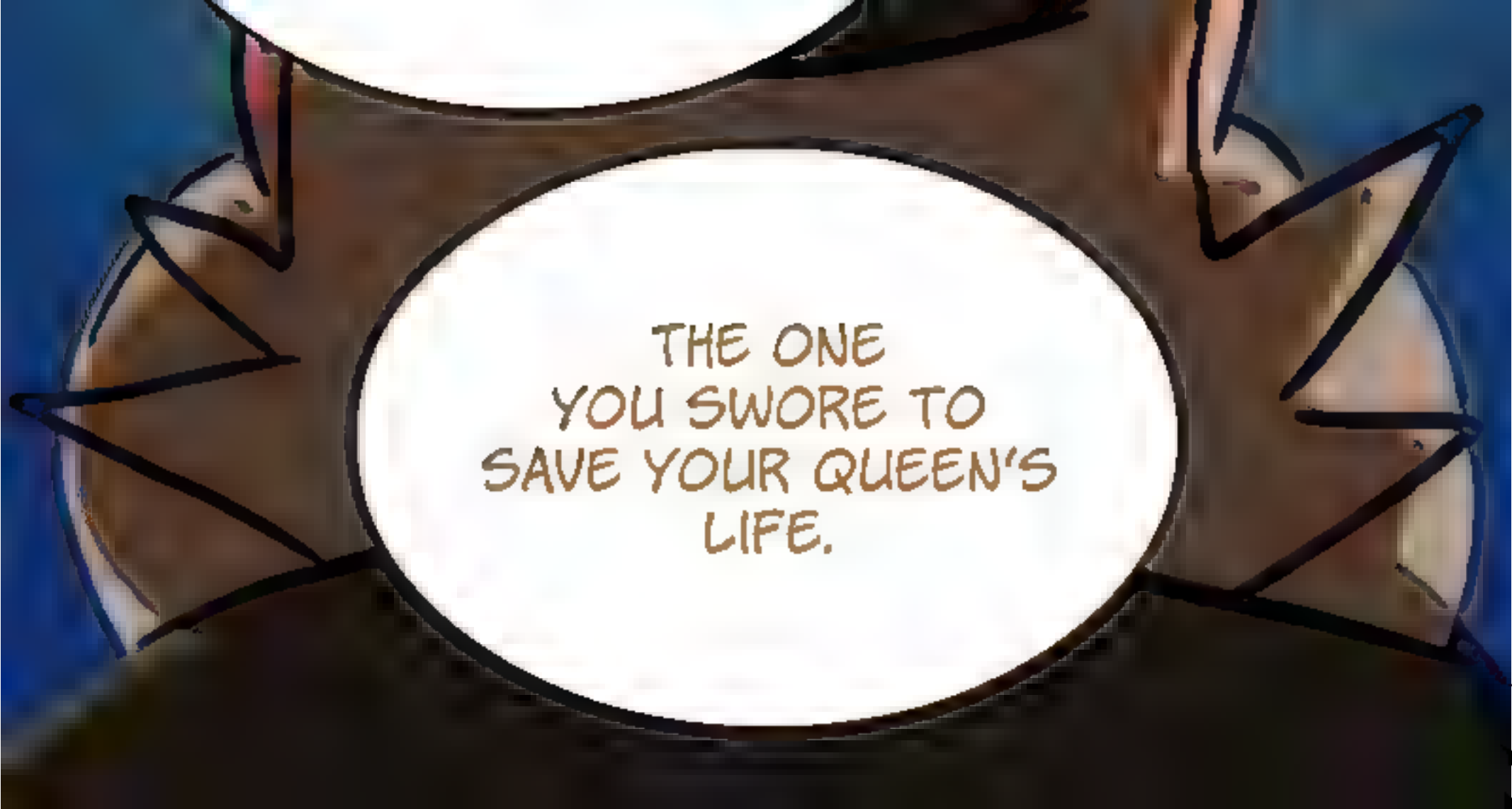
AND
I'M SURE YOUR
QUEEN WOULD
BE GRATEFUL.

HEHE

HOW DID YOU--
I'LL BE HONEST, I'M CHEATING A LITTLE.

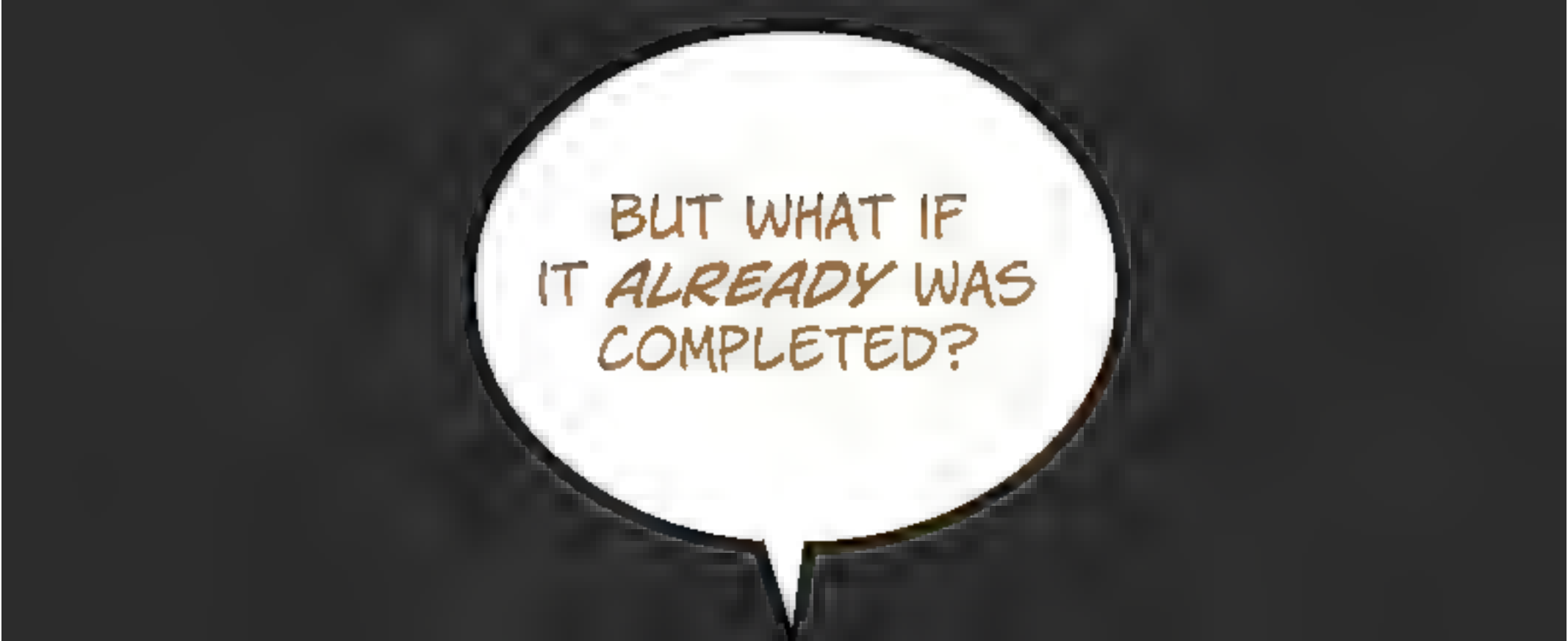
ONE OF MY TALENTS IS TO SEE THE OATHS SOMEONE IS SWORN TO.
I'M A BUSINESSMAN, AFTER ALL. CONTRACTS ARE MY BREAD AND BUTTER!

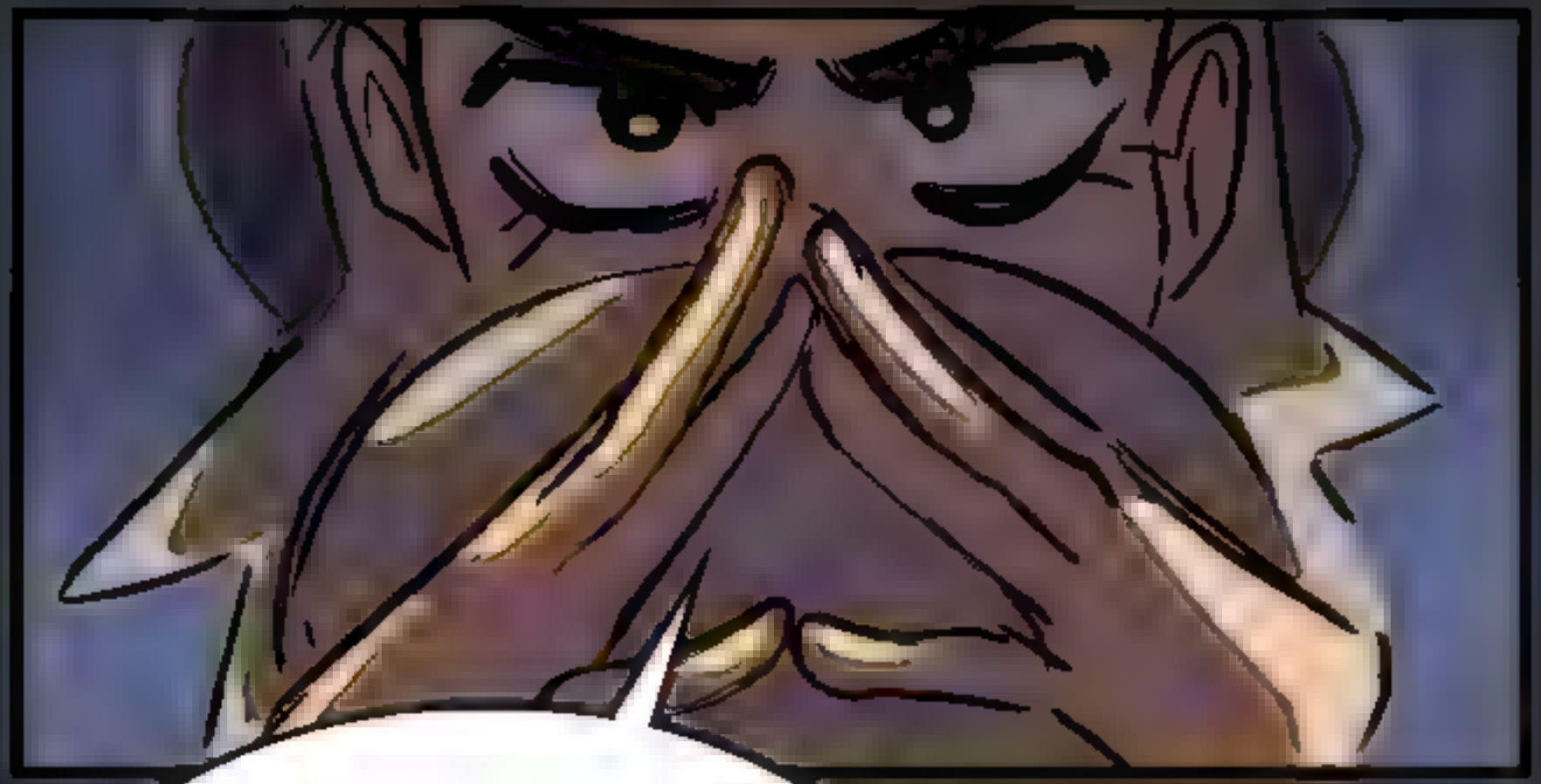
YOU'VE SWORN QUITE A FEW... YOU MUST BE A WOMAN OF YOUR WORD.
BUT THERE'S ONE OATH THAT STANDS OUT ABOVE THE REST...


THE ONE
YOU SWORE TO
SAVE YOUR QUEEN'S
LIFE.

SO
I'VE KNOWN
FROM THE BEGINNING
WHY WE'RE ALL
HERE!

SAY I WERE TO BELIEVE YOU...
EVEN SO, THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO *COMPLETE* THE ROOM OF SWORDS, NOT TO DESTROY IT.


BUT WHAT IF
IT ALREADY WAS
COMPLETED?

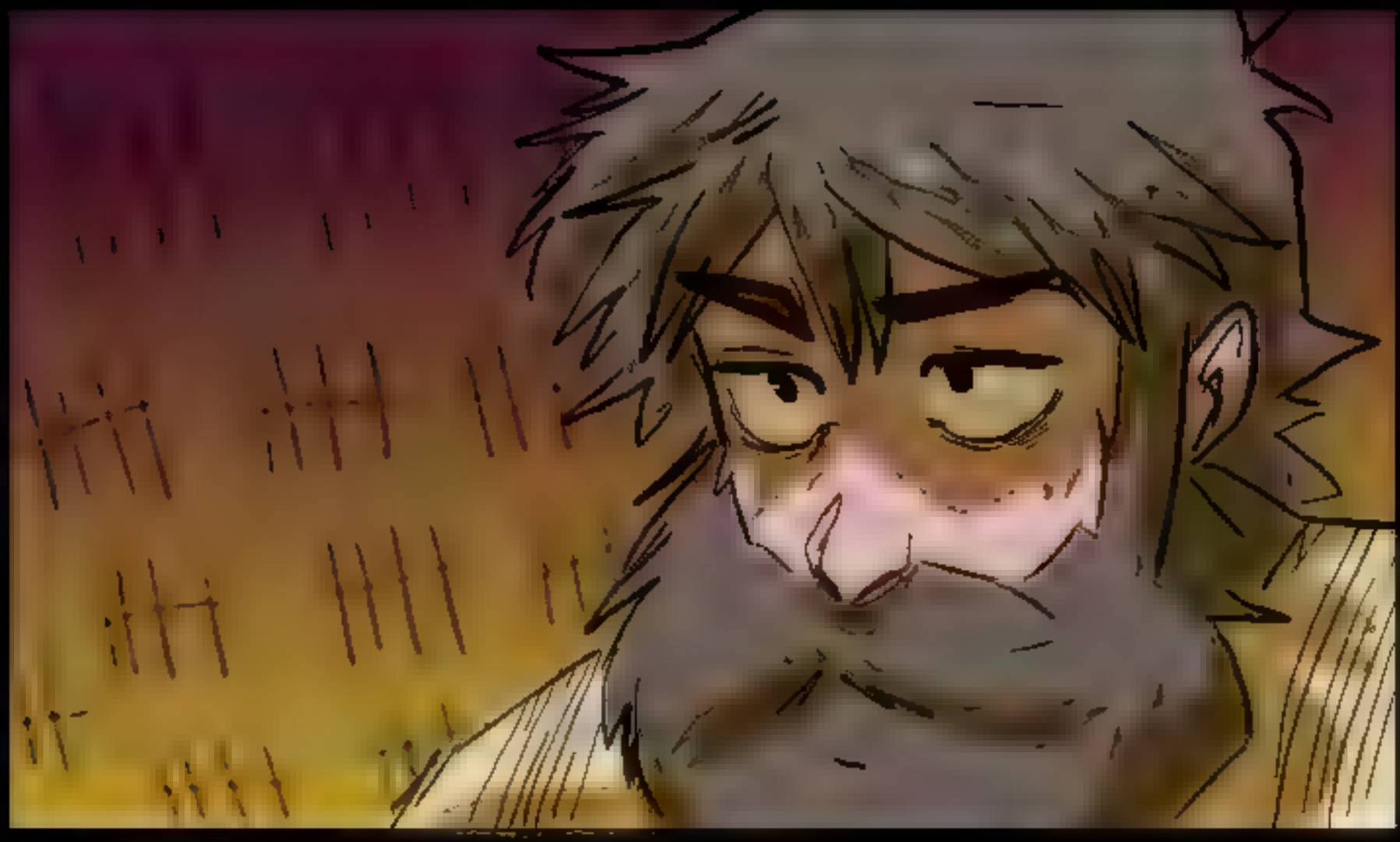


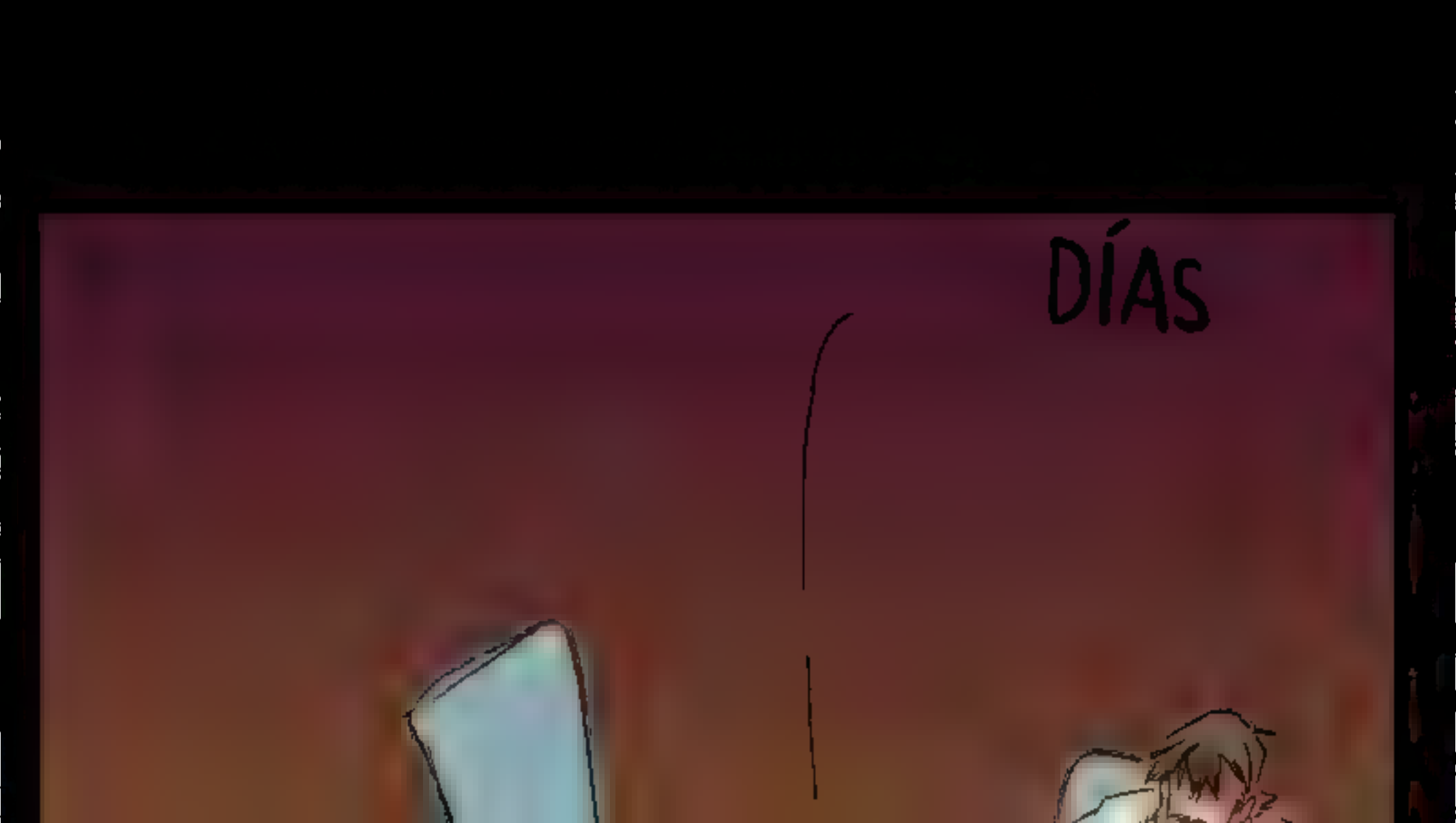
EVERY SWORD WAS IN ITS PLACE TO LOCK THE STRUCTURE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

IF YOU
ASK ME, THE
ROOM OF SWORDS
ISN'T A MEANS TO
FREEDOM AT ALL...

...IT'S
SOMEONE'S
PRISON.

...WHOSE?




DÍAS

DEAS: DAYS (SPANISH)

THERE'S A LOT I NEED TO SHOW YOU.

WE'LL START HERE.

FROM
THE
BEGINNING.

ROOM of
SWORDS
- END OF CHAPTER 93-

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